

The Middlebury Campus

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SGA Candidates Talk Platforms

By Will DiGravio
Staff Writer

Four students are running to serve as President of the Student Government Association (SGA) for the 2016-17 academic year. The Middlebury Campus met with the candidates to discuss their platforms and goals for the upcoming election. A debate between the candidates will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in Crossroads Café, moderated by SGA Director of Membership Zak Fisher '17 and Senior Senator Madeleine Raber '16. Students can vote online from noon on April 18 to noon on April 19.

Michael Brady '17.5

Brady's platform is centered around expanding current initiatives, fostering diversity and inclusion and creating new Middlebury traditions.

A member of the SGA since his first semester, Brady has previously served as Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate and Feb Senator. Brady stated that, through these roles, he has built working relationships with senior administrators and gained experience working with members of the Senate.

"As a president, you have a lot of ability to get the wheels turning on change but you always need to be involving the Senate and keeping them on board," Brady said. "[You need to] step back and be thoughtful as to what the student body would want."

Working alongside Ilana Gratch '16, Brady assisted with the creation and development of "10 o'clock Ross." While he recognizes the success the program has had in its first year, he sees room for improvement. Citing a solid working relationship with dining services, Brady hopes to expand food options for the pro-

gram, with the goal of eventually having hot food served.

Brady played a role in the creation of the student-run bar at 51 Main. He views this initiative as one of the only places where students can meet one another and wants to increase the number of such events.

"This past year, I've spoken with many students that noted there aren't enough neutral spaces at Middlebury," Brady said. "Both of these programs have the potential to help solve that problem."

If elected, Brady will look for ways to make the SGA more inclusive. He proposes the creation of an additional senate seat to represent cultural organizations on campus.

"I know creating a senate seat isn't going to necessarily solve all of the problems — no senator can address all issues [faced by the different cultural organizations]," he said. "But it's a step in the right direction."

He wants to implement a reform system to have the constitutions of all organizations reviewed every few years to reflect on the makeup of clubs and examine any barriers to entry that may be excluding students.

Brady identifies another problem with the College; despite being over two hundred years old, the College does not have many traditions. Each year, the SGA is allotted a discretionary fund that, according to Brady, has typically been used for conferences and events for cabinet members. Brady hopes to use the fund to hold the very first "President's Ball," an annual, outdoor party held in the fall semester for all students.

Charles Rainey '19

Rainey's platform is grounded in constructing a more inclusive Middlebury, fostering a greater

COACHELLA-BOUND BØRNS STOPS AT MIDD FOR MCAB SPRING CONCERT



MICHAEL O'HARA

Garrett Børns performed as BØRNS in Chip Kenyon '85 Arena on Saturday, April 9. See page 16.

sense of community, addressing the funding of athletics and building upon existing SGA initiatives.

Rainey currently serves as SGA First-Year Senator and has worked with other student organizations and senior administrators to pass two inclusivity bills that he authored. Rainey believes he can create a new SGA that works for everyone.

"I have the relationships to get the things we need done," said Rainey. "I have the passion. I have the record. And I have the ideas."

As president, Rainey would form a team comprised of faculty, students and administrators to create a mandatory training program for all Residential Life staff members on how to deal with situations involving bias or discrimination. He also wants to integrate the JusTalks initiative with the First-Year Seminar Program to promote larger, more continuous conversations about inclusion.

"The lack of inclusion on this campus is the largest problem

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Students To Present at Spring Symposium

By Elizabeth Sawyer
Contributing Writer

The College's 10th annual Spring Student Symposium will take place tomorrow, Friday, April 15. Featuring work from over 300 students, the event will begin on Friday morning in McCardell Bicentennial Hall with a welcome address from President of the College Laurie L. Patton. It will conclude with a celebratory reception Friday evening.

As part of the celebration, the play "The Pitchfork Disney" will be performed at the Hepburn Zoo on both Thursday and Friday night, and the McCardell Bicentennial Hall Observatory will be open for stargazing on Friday night.

In 2007, Professor of Geology Pat Manley and Associate Dean for

Judicial Affairs and Student Life Karen Guttentag organized the first Spring Student Symposium. Since then, the event has "grown from a half-day event with about 60 students to a full day, with work from hundreds of students," said Lisa Gates, associate dean for fellowship and research, and co-chair of the Spring Student Symposium Committee. Gates noted that "the Symposium itself offers students a rare opportunity to present their academic or creative work in a professional setting for the whole Middlebury community. It's a way for them to share the ideas and lines of inquiry they've been pursuing and for us to celebrate the thoughtful and thought-provoking work our students engage in. I always finish the day feeling awed by

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 3

SENATOR DROPS SGA DURING MEETING

By Will DiGravio
Staff Writer

Atwater Senator Jigar Bhakta '18 resigned from his position during the April 10 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA).

Since his election to the Senate in a special election last fall, Bhakta felt that the SGA strayed from its true purpose as a body and became an activist organization.

"We were doing the activist organizations' work for them, which I did not believe was right" Bhakta said. "It's my impression, from people I talk to, that we are not the social justice warriors that we think we are."

He cited two inclusivity bills, passed by the Senate on January 31 of this year, as an example of the SGA becoming more activist-oriented. The two

bills called for statements of condemnation to be released by both the SGA and College President Laurie L. Patton in response to the College's MLK Today Event and the controversial comments of the late-Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Bhakta does not believe that it is the role of the SGA to take on such issues.

"There were [cultural] groups that did not support the inclusivity bills," Bhakta said. "How can we do this on behalf of the campus when not every one of the groups that we are backing is backing us themselves?"

As the bills were being deliberated on, Bhakta felt that voices of dissent were unwelcomed in the discussion.

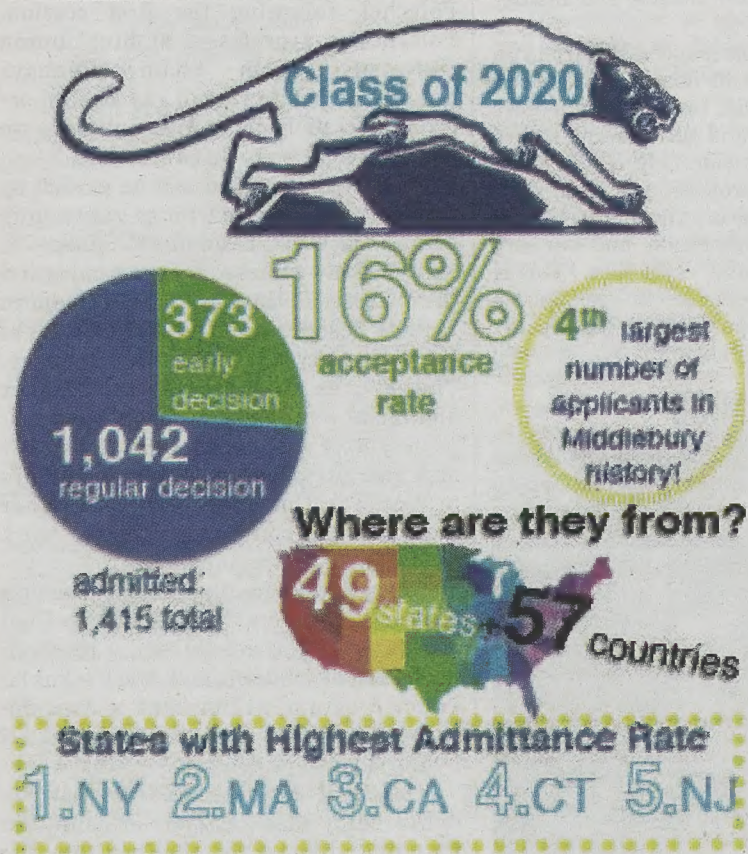
"The Senate was a place where my opinions were defi-

nately not welcome," Bhakta wrote in an email to his former senate colleagues. "When it comes to campus topics like racial tensions, it was quite apparent that SGA is a 'hop on board fast' sort of train, instead of a logical/rational discussion that actually represents what many students on campus (like myself) are afraid to say aloud because they'll be shunned."

It is Bhakta's belief that the bills distracted from more important issues going on at that time that the SGA could have been focusing on.

Bhakta acknowledges that he did not voice his opinion until his resignation. He hopes that, in the future, other Senate members will be more active in sharing any dissenting views.

"Hopefully it shows people that they're not alone," Bhakta said.



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STUPID F***ING BIRD BRINGS HUMOR TO UNSETTLING THINGS

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL

By Nick Garber
Community Council Correspondent
& Staff Writer

On Tuesday, March 22, Community Council began its meeting with a presentation by Tim Spears, vice president for academic development and professor of American studies. Spears came to propose a potential pilot project to revise the College's pet policy, specifically in regard to dogs.

Under the College's current bylaws, faculty and staff are not allowed to keep dogs on campus. However, responding to community input, the administration has recently discussed allowing faculty and staff to bring their dogs to campus during business hours, provided that they register the dogs and receive permission from their supervisors.

"There are any number of positive reasons to be around dogs," Spears said. "In bringing a dog to campus, we, in a funny way, humanize people ... If I bring my dog to campus, and you see me with my dog, you come to understand me as a faculty member or administrator in a different sort of way."

Several council members expressed concern that College custodial staff would be left with increased cleanup duties. Spears acknowledged the legitimacy of these concerns, but cited similar programs at institutions such as Amherst College, where faculty members are required to be completely responsible for their own pets.

The Council did not take a vote, as the intent behind Spears's visit was simply to gauge the Council's feelings on the matter.

Later in the meeting, the Council completed its discussion from the previous week on its list of possible solutions to student stress. The document was compiled by Emma Bliska '18, and would be sent by the Council to the working group on stress established by President of the College Laurie L. Patton. After several amendments, including changing the proposal from an "endorsement" to a "formal recommendation," the Council voted unanimously to approve the document.

During the next meeting on Tuesday, April 5, the Council welcomed Roberto Lint-Sagarena, associate professor of American studies and director of the Anderson Freeman Resource Center, who gave an update on the work of the Alliance for an Inclusive Middlebury.

Lint-Sagarena primarily discussed the Alliance's upcoming website, which will include "a picture of who's at Middlebury and how long they're at Middlebury." This information, Lint-Sagarena shared, is "the most difficult" aspect of the website.

Lint-Sagarena presented data to the Council showing the College's retention rates for black students, overall students of color and all students. According to the data, six-year graduation rates for black students have generally increased over the past several years, rising from 69 percent during the 2005 cohort to 100 percent in 2009.

Other students of color maintained a relatively steady six-year graduation rate, finishing most recently at 94 percent. The rate for all students, meanwhile, was generally slightly higher, although the 2009 figure of 94 percent was identical to that of students of color.

"This data has been mysterious for a very long time," said Lint-Sagarena. "So we're hoping to have this be the first step in transparency, so we can see where we are, where we've been, where we might be going and address any issues that might have negative consequences."

Afterwards, Associate Dean of Students for Residential and Student Life Doug Adams gave a presentation on the biennial review of academic and special interest houses conducted by Residential Life.

According to Adams, the committee approved 14 of the 17 houses this year with no stipulations. The remaining houses were given various stipulations regarding insufficient membership or possible changes to the house mission.

Photon Wins MiddChallenge

By Grant Olcott
Contributing Writer

Photon, a student-built photo printing company, won MiddChallenge last Monday, April 11. After six hours of pitches judges awarded the \$3,000 prizes to the top ideas in three categories: business, social enterprise and education and policy.

MiddChallenge started in 2009 as an idea competition, originally named Stonehenge. The competition is hosted by Programs on Creativity and Innovation in the Liberal Arts (PCI). Although MiddChallenge was originally conceived as a contest for business ideas, it has expanded to include ideas in education, outreach and policy and social entrepreneurship.

Two \$3,000 grants are typically awarded per category, although this year, the judges split the second place prize into two \$1,500 prizes to acknowledge the potential of two runner-ups. Volunteer judges were selected from local staff, faculty, community members and alumni based on their relevant experiences.

Contestants are judged on a number of criterion. "The best projects, or the most memorable winners, were the ones where the people presenting were clearly having fun and cared a lot about what they were trying to do," student organizer Kate Robinson '16 said. "If you can be creative and have fun with your presentation while also making sure you're clear and your idea is processed fully, then you're golden."

Photon was developed by Brandon Gell '16, Davin Chia '17 and Sherif Nada '16, who

have already built a downloadable version of the app, complete with a yellow gnome serving as the company mascot.

Similar to a service like Shutterfly, Photon is a mobile app that allows users to print photos directly from their phone. Photos are printed at Kinney Drugs and then mailed to campus mailboxes.

"The average person takes 150 photos a month," Gell said. "With a smartphone it's so easy to take pictures of everything. Photon seeks to bring some of that intentionality back into taking pictures by allowing people to print the pictures that matter the most to them."

Judges believed Photon had the best business plan and vision. "It identifies something everyone wishes they did more of," AJ Gruff said. "It also goes about it in a traditionally Middlebury way — by involving local businesses."

The two second-place winners were Maryam Mahboob '18 with her company, Mac and Choose, and Madison Brusman '18.5, who developed an "Assassins" mobile app, CatchMe.

"It's really important that I went through a program like MIDDCORE, where I got the idea, and received my crowd funding link on MIDDSTART," Mahboob said.

"There's a culture of spitballing, of really wanting to elaborate on things and grow ideas bigger and talking about ideas that you know are never going to happen and then suddenly something clicks," Gell said. "I think it has two parts: Coming up with the idea and then finding the right person to help you do it."

Datafest Arrives in Vermont

By Rae Aaron
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, six teams of 17 students from the College competed in a DataFest challenge at St. Michael's College in Burlington. Middlebury teams won prizes in all three categories: Best in Show, Best Visualization Runner-up and Best Business Recommendation Runner-Up.

Albert Kim, assistant professor of mathematics at the College, spearheaded the event along with Philip Yates, an associate professor of mathematics at St. Michael's.

Kim is interested in a new field called data science, combining skills from a variety of fields to make sense of large data sets. "In this new information age, we're bombarded with all sorts of information, and we need people with both the computational and the mathematical and statistical skills to make sense of that," he said.

"Instead of trying to build something, like a program, we're instead trying to make analysis of this data," Jonah Simon '18 said. Simon, Christian Lehner '18.5 and Trisha Singh '18 won the runner-up award for Best Visualization for their project.

The American Statistical Association (ASA) created DataFest events as "a celebration of data in which teams of undergraduates work around the clock to find and share meaning in a large, rich and complex data set." The first DataFest happened at UCLA in 2011; the DataFest at St. Michael's this past weekend was one of many nation-

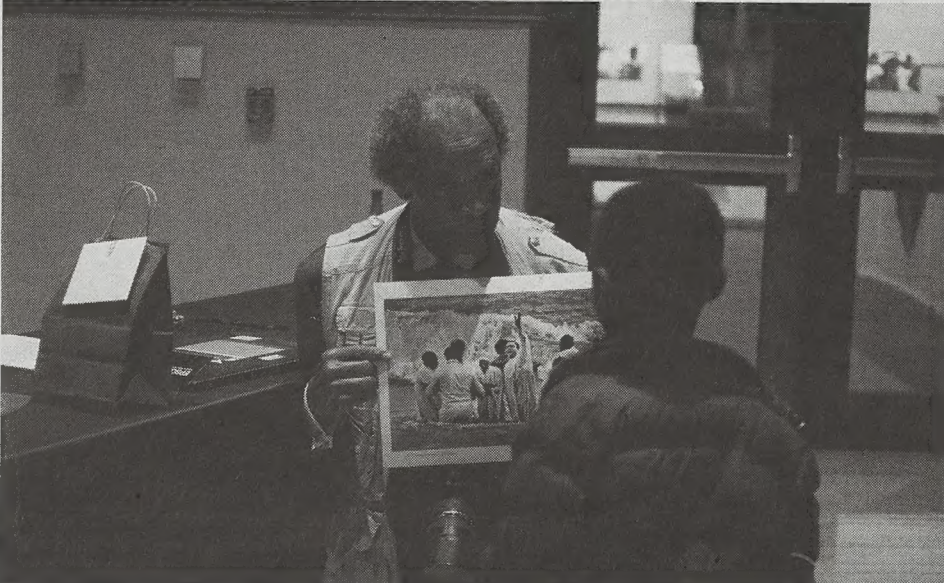
wide, with thousands of undergraduates competing annually for the best analysis of a chosen company's data at colleges across the country, Germany and Canada.

Starting Friday, April 8, teams of three to five had 48 hours to compile their conclusions from the data set into four content slides, which they then presented to the groups and judges on Sunday afternoon. The judges were Beth Anderson, city of Burlington chief innovation officer; Jeff Buzas, UVM department of mathematics and statistics chair and director of statistics and biostatistics programs; and Matthew Landis, data scientist at ISciences.

Kim teaches courses in statistical science, data science and statistics, but encourages students in the economics, physical and social science departments the opportunity to participate in the DataFest. Competitors from the Middlebury teams were comprised of math, neuroscience, economics, computer science and biology majors.

The DataFest was a successful trial run for Kim. He plans to host a DataFest at Middlebury next year, inviting competitors from the Vermont and surrounding states, and bringing in outside help from graduate students and professionals from various industries. "This is a very energetic and forward-thinking institution, and I'm very invigorated to be here," said Kim. "This is something employers like to see. This is both fun and an opportunity to make yourself a little more marketable."

PHOTOJOURNALIST JOHN H. WHITE SPEAKS AT MIDD



Last Tuesday, April 12, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer John H. White shared his story working as a photojournalist in Chicago with the College community.

ECON SYMPOSIUM BRINGS SPEAKERS

By Catherine Pollack
Contributing Writer

The David K. Smith '42 Economics Symposium will take place Saturday, April 16 and is titled, "Economics of Skin Tone, Gender, Ethnicity and Diaspora." The event was organized by Phanindra V. Wunnava, professor of economics and David K. Smith '42 chair in applied economics, and Vijaya L. Wunnava, the events coordinator for the economics department. According to Phani Wunnava, the day-long symposium will cover "the most pressing issues of socioeconomic differentials based on skin color, gender, ethnicity and refugee status."

The symposium is dedicated to the memory of former Professor of Economics Robert E. Prasch III. Prasch taught at the College from 2000 to 2015. Wunnava fondly remembered conversations with his dear friend about economic inequality, and said Prasch is greatly missed by everyone at the College who had the opportunity to know him.

The day's program will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Robert A. Jones '59 House Conference Room with opening remarks from Wunnava. Over the course of the day, five papers will be presented and two keynote addresses will be given.

Wunnava described the presenters as friends, colleagues and mentors. "Over the years, I have benefited immensely from my own mentors, and feel strongly that I should also take a lead role in mentoring my students," Phani Wunnava said. His own students, Jana Parsons '16, Hyeon-Seok Yu '16 and Nathaniel Cleveland '16.5, will moderate the sessions.

The guiding question of the first session is "Do we have a Color-Blind Economy?" Marcos A. Rangel, an economist from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University and research affiliate with the Duke Population Research Institute, will present his paper, which explores the effect that skin color has on socioeconomic and demographic outcomes. Art Goldsmith, a professor of economics at Washington and Lee University, will present his paper on how the racial composition of high schools affects life outcomes.

The first keynote address will be delivered by Professor Solomon W. Polachek following the first session. Polachek is a professor at Binghamton University whom Phani Wunnava described in an email as a "labor-economics pioneer, and an authority on gender/racial wage differentials."

The second session will be guided by the question, "Are earnings converging across race and gender?" John S. Heywood is a professor of economics and the Director of the Graduate Program in Human Resources and Labor Relations at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The paper he will present looks at gender and racial wage gaps. Joyce P. Jacobsen, professor of economics and the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Wesleyan University, will present her paper on the convergence of the work lives of men and women.

The question guiding the third session will be "Who benefitted from the Civil Rights Act?" Harriet Duleep, a research professor at William and Mary's Public Policy program, will present on how the earnings of Hispanic men were impacted by the Civil Rights Act.

The final Keynote Address will be delivered by Klaus F. Zimmermann, the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Labor in Bonn, Germany. Zimmermann's talk is titled "Diaspora Economics: Global Challenges and Perspectives."

"In my view, our students and community members could benefit immensely by attending this symposium," Phani Wunnava said.

Four Students Campaign for SGA

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let it be?"

Rainey hopes to encourage the administration to diversify the faculty, believing the most effective way to do so would be to identify specific departments that need to be diversified.

"Diversifying the faculty is essential to ensuring that the student body receives a diverse set of perspectives in the classrooms," Rainey said. "It is important to have professors who students of marginalized groups on campus can identify with and seek advice from about personal matters they may be uncomfortable sharing with others."

He also wants to restructure the SGA Institutional Diversity Committee (IDC) to be more effective in facilitating campus-wide conversations on inclusion, starting with the implementation of monthly town hall meetings in which students would be able to discuss problems that negatively impact the community.

If elected, Rainey would introduce "Mid-dSibs," a program in which first-years would be paired with an upperclassman to aid them in getting acclimated to life at the College. Rainey believes this will help form bonds between first-year students and upperclassmen and more strongly connect juniors and seniors with the Commons.

Rainey also plans to create a more efficient laundry service, turn unused spaces on campus into on-campus student bars, advocate for the institutional funding of club sports and launch a "Staff Appreciation Day."

Karina Toy '17

Toy's platform focuses on three areas: improving the College's financial aid system, building community and increasing SGA transparency.

Toy has served for three years in the Senate as a representative of the Class of 2017. She also worked for two years as an assistant in the Student Activities Office.

"I know what SGA can do and I know what it can't do," Toy said.

Toy identified financial aid reform as the largest part of her platform. As a student, she has worked with Student Financial Services to gain a better understanding of how the system works.

"In my experience, Middlebury's financial aid staff are incredibly talented and work very hard at what they do but there is a disconnect between the work they put in and the way students feel about our finan-

cial aid system," said Toy. "I have facilitated things between students and the financial aid office before [and] I would like to do things on a larger scale."

She plans to create a student-wide survey to assess the views that students have on issues like filling out a financial aid form and understanding the amount of aid awarded. Her goal is to work to reduce the confusion that students may have about the process.

In addition to reevaluating the financial aid process, Toy plans to use the SGA President's discretionary budget to create a fund for high-cost J-Term workshops that may be inaccessible to students.

If elected, Toy plans to focus on building community. Her first step will be to host a workshop in the fall to give student leaders an opportunity to talk candidly about prevalent issues. To promote a greater sense of community amongst students, Toy wants to aid in the development of ready-made communities of faculty and students in the same major and department.

Toy wants to work with the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) Traditions Committee to create and organize a Staff Appreciation Day.

"It would do a lot to increase staff-to-student interactions," Toy said. "The staff [members] have some incredible stories and backgrounds. [There are] diverse stories that are not heard on campus."

The final pillar of Toy's platform is to increase the transparency of the SGA. As president, Toy would work to increase collaboration with other organizations by emailing the SGA agendas to club presidents and posting them online and in the McCullough Student Center. She would also bring back the online petitioning service "We the MiddKids" to increase student voice and participation.

"This year, to my knowledge, we haven't used it at all," Toy said. "As president, I would personally follow up on any petition that reaches a number of votes reflecting definite student investment and passion."

Ivan Valladares '17

Valladares plans to increase the SGA's role in promoting intersectionality on campus. If elected, he will work to implement a variety of measures he deems essential to the progression of equitable academic and personal growth.

Valladares wants to utilize the faculty's influence on campus and work with department heads to implement a series of

lectures, given by professors, to encourage students to take active roles in creating a more inclusive community. He also believes that the College can greater utilize the tools it already has in place, such as JusTalks and ResLife, to spark greater levels of participation amongst the student body.

He believes space needs to be made available for departments and students to host events that bring the community together for discussions on how to bolster campus intersectionality.

"There are a lot of people who I've spoken to who don't feel safe here or feel marginalized," Valladares said. "Every single one of us needs to be involved in those discussions."

He plans to incentivize students to host events wherein they can teach one another new skills, like photography or tennis, in an effort to promote a sense of community. As SGA President, he would work to create a community in which students mutually guarantee one another's success by supporting one another.

"We can progress equally and we can all guarantee each other a better academic experience," he said. "It takes effort and time, but it is effort and time that will pay off in the end."

Although he has no SGA experience, Valladares has led groups of students interested in political science on exploratory trips to Washington D.C. He also led a group through the Middlebury Alternative Break Program (MALT), conducting research in South America. He sits on the board of the Blackbird Arts Journal and has been involved in the production of the Atwater Coffee House. He believes these experiences will aid him in the role of SGA President.

Valladares said that the SGA has been successful in many of its smaller initiatives. However, he believes it has been ineffective in quelling the dissonance felt throughout the school and unable to instill values of inclusivity with their methods. As president, he plans to accomplish the aforementioned short term goals in an effort to construct a solid base on which progress can be built.

"My presidency isn't about radical change. It's about laying down the fundamentals," Valladares said.

All four candidates have been invited to appear on this Sunday's edition of The Campus Voice at 8 p.m. on WRMC-91.1 FM, where they will participate in a one-on-one town hall event with moderator Nathaniel Wiener '18.

STUDENTS SHOW WORK, RESEARCH

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the work that happens here."

The symposium provides students an opportunity to both showcase their own work as well as appreciate the diverse projects of hundreds of others. A participant in last year's symposium responded to a survey that while they "enjoyed being able to share my work with my friends and family in a public setting," they were "really amazed by the depth and breadth of the other research I got to learn about during the Symposium. I felt reenergized at the end of the day because it was a great reminder of the passion and brilliance of so many members of the Middlebury community."

Gates described the event as a "huge, collective effort to organize, but all worth it. Walking around Bi-Hall during the day, talking with students about their posters, listening to presentations, there is this great buzz in the building, of people coming together and learning from each other. For me, it is one of the best things we do at Middlebury."

This year, there will be 144 oral presentations and 54 poster presentations, and artwork from 56 students will be on display in the Johnson Memorial Building. "There's a tremendous breadth of topics and disciplines represented in this program," Gates reported. "There are students talking about inclusivity, language, poverty, literature, gender, politics and policy, art, culture, science and more. Looking through the topics, you begin to understand what an incredible diversity of work happens at Middlebury."

Greg Vitercik, professor of music and co-chair of the Symposium, echoed Gates' sentiments in an email to *The Campus*. "I hesitate to mention any particular papers because no sample can give a real sense of the breadth of subject matter that will be packed into one day," he wrote. To provide a small sample of what can be expected, he reported that "the breadth of topics is wonderfully illustrated in one session, all gathered under the title, 'Formations and Reflections of Social Class,' which includes presentations titled 'Ticket to Ride: Social Geography and Railroads in Nineteenth-Century London,' 'Drinking, Drugs and Depression: Economic Mobility and White Middle-Aged Mortality,' 'Fields of Difference: Usage and Perception of Urban Park Spaces in New York City' and 'Morality of Neuroscientific Reductionism—Predicting Problem Populations?'"

"To see all this work at this level at a little liberal arts college tucked away in Vermont is breathtaking. It even gives me hope for the future," Vitercik confided to *The Campus*. "Please urge everyone to look at the schedule and to come out to learn, support their friends and classmates and be inspired."

Gates emphasized her hope that all students, including underclassmen, will attend. "This event isn't just for seniors. Typically about half of our presenters are not seniors ... And for first-year students, it's a great chance to see the kind of work that happens in many different departments."

Students can visit go/sym for more information and a complete schedule of Thursday and Friday's events.

MCAB's WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MIDDLEBURY?

MCAB Trivia Night

Enjoy the early weekend and challenge your friends to a night of trivia and fun. Free food and lots of prizes will be provided!

THURSDAY AT 9 P.M. IN CROSSROADS CAFE

Modern Diet and The Will Overman Band

Come listen and dance to these jammin' bands LIVE this Friday in Johnson Pit.

FRIDAY AT 10 P.M. IN JOHNSON MEMORIAL BUILDING

College Hosts Dinner on Inclusivity

By Sarah Asch
Contributing Writer

The College hosted a faculty-led discussion dinner about inclusivity on March 24. The meeting, which was co-led by Associate Professor of Education Studies Jonathan Miller-Lane and Associate Professor of History William Hart, is the first in a series of similar talks that are scheduled this semester as part of the wider, ongoing conversation about diversity and inclusivity on campus.

"The purpose of the first 'pizza chat' about inclusivity and diversity was to hear what students had to say about these concepts; to invite students to speak freely to each other and to faculty and staff in a small, pressure-free (if that is possible) setting," Hart said.

Hart believes inclusivity is an issue students should care deeply about. "A learning community that is neither diverse nor inclusive compromises learning," he said. "I see it as the students' responsibility to make the world a better place, which requires change. And that change must begin here at Middlebury College."

At the forum, which was attended by 23 students and nine faculty members, students and staff split into three groups to discuss inclusivity on campus. Hart framed the conversation through the lens of the College's mission statement. The groups analyzed the statement to see if there was room for the concept of inclusivity. One point of discussion was the difference between inclusivity and diversity. Timothy Spears, professor of American studies and vice president for academic development, was one of the faculty members involved in organizing the forum.

"Diversity is a concept that colleges and universities have used to describe demographic differences that constitute their respective communities," Spears said. "Inclusivity points to the values and practices that the institutions uphold to insure that everyone in those communities feels welcome — that everyone is able to fully participate in the life of the community, and that the community is open to being changed by the participation of its members."

Elizabeth Dunn '18 attended the talk because she wanted to participate in the College community in a way that enacts such a change.

"Middlebury is not inclusive at all. For people of non-dominant identities on this campus — dominant meaning white, straight, cis, male, rich, able-bodied, or any combination of those — our only options are to assimilate, be erased, or isolate ourselves," Dunn said. One thing Dunn got out of attending the talk was reassurance that there are people on campus who are not directly affected by the lack of inclusivity but still want to discuss creating change. "I just hope the momentum keeps going, because at this college we seem to have an incredibly difficult time focusing on issues like these for more than a couple of weeks," she said.

Many students who attended the talk expressed a desire to continue having small-scale forums as the basis for meaningful conversations about inclusivity, including Ben Belinski '18.5. Belinski believes that the effort to improve our community should be ongoing and that talks like these are instrumental in that effort.

"Taking the time to participate in this kind of group discussion is exactly what we

need to be doing," Belinski said. "The only way to make any genuine progress is through heartfelt, engaging and well-directed discourse; not through the continuous bickering on ineffective media platforms."

Jose Tollens '18 agreed that the inclusivity forum was a useful way to build inclusivity by learning about other student's personal stories. "We need to, as a collective body, understand where other people are coming from," Tollens said. "Sharing stories, life experiences and overall challenges from different perspectives is a great way to induce a sense of empathy, which I think would lead to a better awareness and a greater, safer campus culture."

Tollens hopes future inclusivity forums will expand and involve more people, especially those who are not participating in the conversation yet. "The people that are having these inclusivity conversations are not out to make you seem like a racist or call you out on your lack of black friends," he said. "We are here to spread an awareness about these issues. We care about your perspective and what you have [gone] through in your life; we are here to make friends, not impose shameful enumerations on to you. Join the conversation, even if you feel afraid."

Hart also hopes the talks will continue to expand, and he considers the first one a success. "The event was enormously successful, as faculty and staff learned a great deal about how students felt about how these concepts were working — or not working — at Middlebury," he said. "Right now, our plan is to hold a series of these conversations over pizza for the remainder of the spring semester and see in May where we need to go next fall."

PFOA Contamination Spreads to Water in Pownal

By Rebecca Walker

Local Editor

Low levels of PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), the chemical that contaminated 100 private wells in North Bennington, have been found in a public water supply of Pownal, VT. The Pownal contamination is the first instance that this potentially cancer-causing chemical has affected a public drinking water system in Vermont. However, a similar type of contamination has already occurred in Hoosick Falls, NY.

Testing samples came from the Fire District No. 2 municipal water source in Pownal. This particular water source reaches about 450 residents.

The PFOA chemical levels in Pownal measured between 26 parts per trillion and 27 parts per trillion. These levels exceed the state of Vermont's advisory mark of 20 parts per trillion, but fall far below the 400 parts per trillion advisory level of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for short-term exposure to PFOA.

"At 26 or 27, that is not enough PFOA in the water to probably make much of a difference in your blood-

stream," state Health Commissioner Tracy Dolan informed WPTZ News. "However to be cautious, we recommend that people drink another source of water because there is a very slight risk."

The discovery of PFOA in Pownal poses a great financial burden to the state. The state has already dispensed large sums of money to combat the contamination in North Bennington, and the Pownal crisis will only add to that sum.

"We need stronger protection from chemicals. It is common sense that we should only allow new chemicals into the marketplace when we know they are safe."

DEB MARKOWITZ

SEC. OF VT. AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Saint-Gobain, the multinational corporation that had owned the suspected factory in North Bennington, has funded water tests and carbon tests. However, with the source of contamination still unclear in Pownal, there is no corporation on which to place the financial burden. If blame cannot be placed on a specific party, the special environmental contin-

gency fund employed to deal with this water contamination will run out by the year's end.

"We hope to find a responsible party in the near future," said Alyssa Schuren, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner. "In the meantime, the state will be spending its own resources to do the water sampling

as needed."

The state predicts that the source for the contamination in Pownal is the old Warren Wire Company. This company used Teflon in its wire production, a source of PFOA. Warren Wire has passed between three different companies, making it difficult to track down the company that participated in illegal dumping.

Deb Markowitz, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary, expressed disappointment over the chemical contamination.

"We need stronger protection from toxic chemicals," remarked Markowitz in an *Addison Independent* opinion. "It is common sense that we should only allow new chemicals into the marketplace when we know they are safe."

Chuck Schwer, Director of Hazardous Waste Management and Prevention at the Department of Environmental Conservation, is taking action until the responsible source of the chemical contamination can be officially confirmed. He has set up an emergency response station in Pownal in efforts to track private wells, but the testing is no small expense. In search of solutions for this water crisis, Schwer and his team are considering bringing in pure

public drinking supplies from Williamstown, Massachusetts or from safe public sources in Pownal. However, all of these solutions would still not solve the financial issue at hand.

Concern has expectedly arisen among many Pownal residents, despite the fairly low levels of PFOA found.

"Any contamination is ... very scary to me, and I know to my constituents," explained Sen. Dick Sears (D) in an interview with

ALYSSA SCHUREN

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER

WCAX.

In attempts to quell the concerns of Pownal residents, a town meeting was held at the American Legion building in Pownal at which hundreds of Vermonters made a presence. At the meeting, the Department of Environmental Conservation informed residents that it would be unable to take long-term action until the source of the chemical contamination is confirmed. The meeting appears to have reassured some residents.

"As long as we know that it's not that high, I think we'll be okay," claimed Pownal resident Bernadette Snide, according to WPTZ.

The state hopes that this reassured mindset will be justified as water testing continues in Pownal.

'I Love Rutland' Campaign Redefines City

By Harry Cramer

Local Editor

Rutland has something of an image problem. Despite making strong economic strides, Rutland continues to be defined by an heroin problem intimately documented by national media platforms over the past several years.

"Block by block, this city in central Vermont has been fighting a heroin epidemic so entrenched that it has confounded all efforts to combat it," began one such article describing in the *New York Times*.

A new campaign, called "I Love Rutland," hopes to change all that.

"By simply talking about all the great people, places and assets we have," reads the website, "we hope to support the Rutland area's ongoing rebirth, and create a positive, constructive dialogue."

The campaign is modeled after the "I Love New York" campaign of the late 1970s, which was designed to bolster local pride and promote tourism.

"I always loved that campaign," said Mike Napolitano, owner of Awesome Graphics and one of the leaders

of the campaign. "I love New York City and it's gotten better and better."

Like the campaign in New York, Awesome Graphics will sell "I Love Rutland" themed bumper stickers, t-shirts and banners on their website and at their Rutland store.

"I love my community and want to declare it to the world," Napolitano said. "This is a great community, filled with people powered by determination and compassion, surrounded by some of the most beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers in the world. I think we need to express that at every opportunity."

"I love my community and I want to declare it to the world. This is a great community, filled with people powered by determination and compassion, surrounded by some of the most beautiful lakes and rivers in the world. I think we need to express that at every opportunity."

MIKE NAPOLITANO

AWESOME GRAPHICS OWNER

individuals and business leaders and community leaders talk about our community and put it in a positive light when that's appropriate," Costello said in an interview with *Vermont Public Radio*. "And I think it's appropriate a

lot more than we do in Rutland."

The Rutland campaign currently has a Facebook page that profiles local residents and advertises events. Donna Goodhale, local professional photographer and Rutland resident, is producing short stories on Rutland residents similar to those made popular by the web blog and book series *Humans of New York*.

Rutland is the third largest city in Vermont, after Burlington and South Burlington. The city witnessed fast growth during the late nineteenth century, fueled by the lucrative marble quarries nearby and guided by John A. Mead, the first mayor of Rutland. The

downtown area of the city is currently listed as an historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Unfortunately, the city was most recently thrust into the national limelight following Governor Shumlin's heroin-themed 2014 State of the State address. Most media portrayals of the city have been unglamorous.

Philip Allen, a local business owner and resident of the city, said that the campaign was an important positive step toward rebranding the city.

"You know, success breeds success, and pride breeds pride and negative feelings breed negative feelings," he said.

I ♥ Rutland, VT!



Like us on Facebook

ILoveRutlandVT.com

COURTESY VPR

Awesome Graphics is leading the charge by producing images like the one pictured above.

Senate President John Campbell Steps Down

By Julia Hower
Contributing Writer

Sen. John Campbell (D-Windsor), who has served as President Pro Tempore in the Vermont Senate for six years, and has served in the state senate for 16 years overall, recently announced that he would be ending his time in office. This is just one in a succession of changes in the leadership of Vermont's government, as House Speaker Shap Smith (D-Morrisville), Gov. Peter Shumlin and Lt. Gov. Phil Scott have all announced that they too will not be seeking re-election.

When Campbell first stepped into power in 2010, he was widely criticized. Many were concerned by his seemingly haphazard leadership style. Luckily, Campbell improved in the eyes of his peers after his first term as Senate president. In an interview with *VT Digger*, Smith reflected on Campbell's development as Senate president, stating that, "Not many people can take the kind of criticism that he took, internalize it and figure out a way to do better. I think it showed something that he did that. Kudos to him."

In recent years, Campbell has been praised for his ability to empower committee chairs, deferring power to his peers in many cases and fostering a healthy community within the Senate. Campbell has stated that the greatest accomplishment of his time in office was the legalization of same sex mar-

riage in Vermont. When asked about this achievement, Campbell told *Seven Days* that gay marriage was "one of those issues that will only come along once in a lifetime," adding that, "of all the things we've done here, that was one that had a dramatic change on so many people's lives — not only here but also across the country."

Several committee chairs within the Vermont senate have already expressed interest in taking over for Campbell after his departure. Sen. Tim Ashe, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, stated to *Seven Days* that he feels that he has "matured as a member of the Senate to the point where my skills are there to successfully lead the Senate." So far, Ashe has expressed the

SHAP SMITH (D)
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

strongest desire for the position. However, Sen. Ann Cummings, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and Sen. Claire Ayer, Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee have also expressed interest in the position, among several other Senators.

So far, Campbell has refused to endorse a successor.

In an interview with *Seven Days*, he stated: "Even if I did have a preference, I would probably hold back on that one because I don't think it would be fair to them. I think each one of them would have to and does have to make their case to the body as to why they would be best suited to be in charge."

Campbell did, however, express

support for his assistant Conor Kennedy, who has still not decided whether he will vie for the position.

In stepping down, Campbell feels that he is making room for new perspectives on the issues Vermont is facing today.

"We've done a lot of good for the state of Vermont," he told *Seven Days*, "and, I think, for my constituents in Windsor County. But I think it's time for there to be a new view on where this state is going. It's time to get a new set of eyes and ears here."

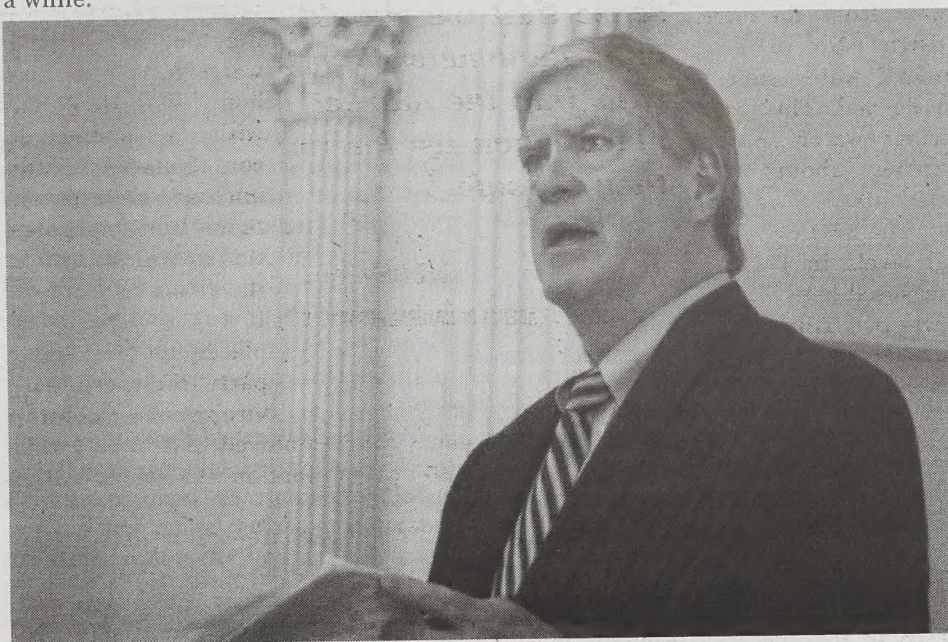
Financial motivations also contributed to Campbell's decision to step down. While the position of Senate President is a year round responsibility, Campbell has only received part time pay, and he has observed to *Seven Days* that the financial difficulty that comes along with the position "gets tiring after a while."

Campbell will become Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs after he steps down as Senate president. Campbell, who was once a police officer and currently serves as an attorney in Windsor county, feels that the position will be "a good fit."

Campbell leaves the Senate in the midst of a mass exodus of Vermont Government officials. Lt. Gov. Scott, who is also stepping down, told *Seven Days* that the winds of change are blowing.

"There's going to be a lot of changes after this session," he said.

With such a drastic change in state leadership approaching, Vermont law-making may also be in for a transformation.

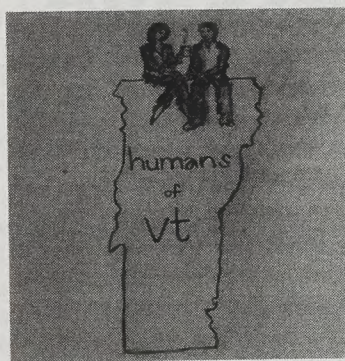


COURTESY VTDIGGER

John Campbell (D) will leave the Senate for the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs.

Ripton General Store Owners Revel in Memories

By Wendy Walcott
Contributing Writer



The Ripton General Store is made up of nooks and crannies, with a collection of odds and ends in between. There's the longstanding shelf of old glass bottles, the old post office in the back corner and wind chimes hanging from the ceiling that dangle over your everyday soup cans, postcards and peanut butter.

Sue and Dick, perhaps the finest gems in the store's collection and the owners of it all, are content behind the counter. Mid-afternoons bring the occasional customer to the register, and when we walk into the store, Sue greets us with a smile.

The two didn't always dwell in Ripton. The couple came up from Pennsylvania in 1976, looking for a change.

"We were just tired living around a city and all that bullshit in the suburbs of Philadelphia," Dick told us. "I worked for a bank, and we just thought we wanted something different. And it really worked out for us, though it didn't work

out for everybody who made jumps like that. We just thought we would escape from the regular rat race."

Dick and Sue took a leap in coming to the then 250-person town, raising their one and three-year-old sons in the apartment just above the little store.

Dick explains that in the '60s and '70s, a lot of people started moving up to Vermont, but it was still more rustic than it is now.

"The whole character of Vermont has changed over those years, and I think Ripton is pretty typical of what's happened. It's gotten a little more gentrified — that's really the most significant thing that I can see that's changed," he elaborates.

They worked to keep the store in similar conditions to how they found it, and even restored the small post office, which brings in many of the general store's customers. Yet, both Dick and Sue say that many of the original, old Vermonters are now gone.

In the back of the store, Sue points us to a picture of what she determines to be 'an old Vermonter.'

"He used to sit on our porch, playing his violin. He lived with his friend down there in that broken down house, which was always broken down. They didn't have any running water and washed themselves from the river. That's an old Vermonter."

On the wall opposite from the violin player are four more photographs of the porch of the store — almost identical, but not quite. Every ten years, since the opening of the store, Dick and his sons posed for a photo with the American flag on the front porch.

"He's a little heavier and my hair is whiter, but there's not much change," Dick laughs. The succession of photos picture his sons as small seven and nine year-olds, and later having kids of their own.

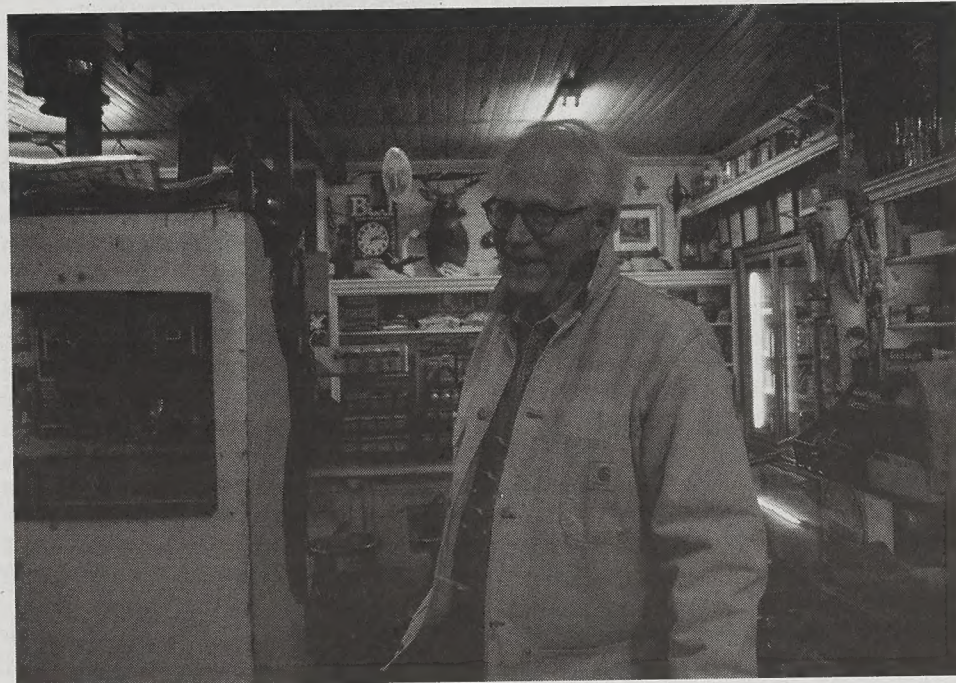
"When our kids were growing up they worked here too," Dick says. "We taught them how to deal with people and how to make change."

Sue added that both of their boys had expressed gratitude for their childhood in Vermont, despite moving away with their new families. The store framed most of the family's life, and the photos on the wall color the passing of time with growth and joy.

"If I had to do it again, I would totally do it again," Dick says. He says that one should go for it — take the chance on a new lifestyle if you're outgrowing the old one.

"We're way past retirement, but we just enjoy doing it. It's a special place."

Dick has a glow in his eyes as he says it, the afternoon light bending over the collections of trinkets and memories. He reminds us that you don't have to accept the rut, but can rather uproot and replant. Although it may prove difficult at first, there will always be said little stores in need of a little love, and they might just give a bit of an adventure back in return.



WENDY WALCOTT

Dick Collitt has run the historic Ripton General Store with his wife Sue for four decades.

OPINIONS

Disclaimer: Reader op-eds do not reflect the opinion of *The Middlebury Campus* editorial board.

The Middlebury Campus

Brady for SGA President

With SGA elections to be held this Monday, April 18, *The Campus* editorial board met with each of the four candi-

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of *The Middlebury Campus*.

dates running for SGA President to get to know more about their platforms, positions and goals for their presidency. We commend each of the students' run-

ning for their passion and commitment.

The Middlebury Campus

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Pyone Aye, Nathaniel Wiener

After hours of speaking with the candidates, researching their platforms and discussing our views as a board, we are excited to endorse Michael Brady '17.5 for the position of SGA President for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Although we eventually came to a near consensus in support of Brady, our choice was far from easy. We were moved by each candidate's dedication to the service of our community and the improvement of students' lived experiences at the College. Although we consider Ivan Valladares '17's passion for active participation and greater community engagement admirable, we believe he fell short in providing concrete steps that would help to accomplish these goals and were concerned by his lack of experience on the SGA. Karina Toy '17 presented herself as a highly qualified and thoughtful candidate, but we were disappointed that her platform did not include explicit steps towards making Middlebury a more inclusive community. The editorial board believes that the issue of inclusivity on campus merits more attention than Toy outlined for us. The most difficult decision for our board was determining whether Charles Rainey '19 or Brady would be the most qualified student to serve as SGA President.

We were refreshed by Rainey's perspective, which brought a personal connection and confident focus to arguably the most pressing issues on campus — inclusivity and diversity. Although we have not chosen to endorse Rainey, much of his platform struck us as thoughtful and rooted in what matters most to many of us, and we are excited to see him grow in leadership roles on campus in the next three years. If elected, we encourage Brady to make inclusivity and diversity central to his presidency, working with Rainey and others to make Middlebury a stronger community. We feel confident that with his per-

sonal connections to students, his fellow SGA members and the administration, as well as the concrete plans outlined in his platform, Brady is the most experienced and qualified candidate to lead our community in the 2016-2017 school year.

We encourage students to examine each candidate's platform in the News section of this publication, where we believe it will become evident that Brady most effectively balances idealism and pragmatism in his plans for next year. Of all the candidates we heard from on Monday night, Brady presented the strongest understanding of the ways in which the SGA can be productively utilized for students' benefit while also demonstrating a clear-headed grasp of the SGA's shortcomings and inabilities. He demonstrated that the constructive changes he proposes are achievable and desirable in equal measure. We feel that Brady's proposals will push our campus towards greater inclusivity for all students on campus by providing a platform for marginalized voices. We were especially excited about his idea of creating a SGA senate position that represents cultural organizations, bringing students with a wide variety of perspectives together in the process.

Brady's approach to the challenges our community faces is balanced, and is reinforced by his experience utilizing the channels of communication and legislation offered by the SGA. With his extensive experience navigating the complex systems of student government in a wide variety of roles — from Speaker of the Senate to Chief of Staff for SGA President Ilana Gratch — we are confident that Brady is the most equipped to empower the voices of our community, including fellow SGA members like Rainey and Toy. Brady spoke with keen awareness of the Senator-President relationship in the SGA; he recognizes the importance of a collaborative, open-

minded SGA President willing to work with those who hold a wide variety of opinions, analyzing situations with precision and poise. His impressive level of experience and comprehensive knowledge of the SGA would serve him well as SGA President.

Many who know Brady attest to his capacity to listen, a skill that we admire and believe will be beneficial for navigating the often polarizing conversations that are so crucial to improving the climate of this campus. It is for this reason that we find Brady the most capable of making concrete progress; he works adeptly with his peers and colleagues, and would be best able to navigate the interpersonal relationships that are crucial to the effectiveness of an SGA presidency. The respect Brady has earned among both peers and administrators will enable him to get things done in the SGA, working with those who may or may not share his views. This may be one of the most difficult challenges of such a position, and we believe his record of listening and collaborating in a wide variety of SGA positions will facilitate successful steps to address the many important challenges faced by our campus.

Problems of inclusivity and diversity have been important to our discussions throughout the year as an editorial board, and we hope that our community continues to work towards solutions. We hope that Brady leads the charge and makes this topic a priority on this campus as President. His dependability and predictability signals to us that he will be ready to handle any new challenges our college may face, and his achievable and specific platform gives us hope that his presidency may start to bring about solutions issues currently plaguing our community. We strongly encourage every member of our community to consider voting for Michael Brady '17.5 as the next SGA President.

Mindfulness in the Message

As we return from spring break, we as a community must be conscious of the events that occurred on this campus as of late. I feel that in some ways, we as a student body need to refocus our lenses on the true problem. I have observed the outcries of racism that my peers have expressed as a result of what has happened

READER OP-ED

Jason Meuse '18 is from Gorham, Maine

at Middlebury during this academic year. We have seen a passionate, growing movement against cultural appropriation and racism, which are issues that I am pleased to see coming to the forefront of the movements on this campus.

I applaud the passion and amazing work that my peers do to raise awareness. Before coming to Middlebury, I was raised in a Southern Maine suburb that was so homogenous that although we were told to respect our differences, there weren't really any to be conscious of. When I realized I was gay, the once accepting, homogenous social landscape I had become accustomed to had morphed into a completely different beast. The insensitive speech and fear of difference had stuck out to me more than it ever had before. The smoke of blissful ignorance that I had lived in for my entire life had faded and I was stuck in the middle of it

all, confused and afraid of the reactions of my friends and family to my true identity. I bring this up to exemplify the background that some students come from. After my almost two years at Middlebury, I have been able to be aware of so much more than I had ever dreamed of. I learned, through living along side my peers and getting to know them and their vast experiences, about the struggles that marginalized groups face on a daily basis not only on this campus, but throughout the United States and the world as a whole.

That is why I am disappointed by the shifting focus of the student body towards these

issues, from both sides of the spectrum. When I first heard about the "Pitiful Garments of Victimhood," I was pleased to know that marginalized groups on campus were making a statement and changing what was seen as negative to a positive. However, when I saw the description on the store page, I felt an ache in my stomach. The first line of the description is: "Help Make Fun of 'It's Not Fair' published here." In the same vein, I am appalled to see the stream of racist posts on YikYak singling out a student without any regard for how he and his

peers might feel. These two sides of the spectrum have something in common: they both address a person, not the issues at hand.

While in no way do I condone the evident racism that has erupted as a result of the anonymous safety of YikYak, I feel that we need to spark conversation about these issues and make our whole community aware of the struggles that students face every day. We need to be mindful

"We need to be mindful that we are addressing the issue, not attacking the agent. When our attempts are misguided, we don't make any real progress."

that we are addressing the issue, not attacking the agent. When our attempts are misguided, we don't make any real progress. We need to make sure our message is one of understanding one another,

not invalidating our peers based on their opinions or identity. I am not saying that we should disregard everyone's experiences. I actually believe the opposite. There is so much value in our differences not only in our identities but our experiences as well. Whether we are black or white, gay or straight, or anything in between, we all bring something very important to the table. When we can stand up for the issue at hand but not against the ones perpetuating it, we will foster a community of which we can all be proud to be a part.

School Abroad in Paris Limits Freedom

Let me start this way: I love Middlebury. My three years here have been the best of my life. I have started to create myself here. Obviously resumes are reductive, but if you look at mine, you can start to understand

READER OP-ED

Edward O'Brien is from Lincoln, Mass.

a little about who I am. Socially Responsible Investing Club, *The Campus*, Queers & Allies, Blackbird literary magazine, occasional participant at Verbal Onslaught. I've worked for political startups and municipal government and done research on sketchy financial aid practices. Poet, writer, economist, queer, environmentalist, social justice activist, politically-opinionated. That's me. These are all pieces of my identity. I've built this identity through my choices at Middlebury. And this year, I chose to add another identity to the list: expat.

I consider Middlebury a place that encourages this diversity of activities and individualism. But that's why I was so disappointed by what awaited me in France. I came here to prove to myself that I could create life for myself somewhere else, but unfortunately Middlebury has stopped me from creating my own life in two essential places: extracurricular activities and housing.

I was very clear on my application: I wanted to live in a student boarding house (foyer in French) because I am gay and I do not want anyone's opinion on my sexuality to ever matter again. I had already come out once, I did not need another family to come out to. Middlebury then placed me into a Christian foyer. The foyers were not only full of groups of homophobic guys that made me feel uncomfortable living there, but it was also a controlling space where the woman in charge would enter my room without my knowledge, would open the window, clear my room of snacks (apparently food was not allowed in the rooms) and grade my room on its cleanliness. The moment I walked into my room to a scorecard on the ground grading how clean my room was, I knew I had to leave. The experience was in-

sultingly infantilizing. I was also not allowed to have any guests in my room, so I could pretty much forget any kind of sexuality whatsoever let alone having a private space to hang out with friends (this last comment may seem trivial, particularly to the older generation, but I argue that it is inherently problematic when anyone has any power over another person's sexuality, particularly when that person is twenty-one and there is not a country in the world where they are still a minor).

Still not wanting to live with a family, I pressured Middlebury to let me find my own apartment, a normal practice in other Middlebury schools abroad but that was considered a large ask here in Paris. My thought process was that if I lived with equals, then I could take back some personal power, and I stand by that. I was told multiple times that I was an exception and that this was not normally an option. Unfortunately, I chose to live with an older man and the power dynamic was anything but equal, so I had to leave. I think this would have worked better had I lived with students.

When I finally moved into my new host mother's apartment, I asked the Middlebury representative, as casually as one can ask these things, whether she happened to know whether this woman was homophobic. She responded that she didn't know, but that she didn't see why I would ever have to out myself to her. I made a mental note not to talk about my boyfriend in my new living quarters, something no one should have to do. My host mother turned out to be a very nice woman (if mildly homophobic), and though I never outed myself to her, we get along well.

Part of the experience of studying abroad here in Paris has not just been adapting to the language, the culture, and the city, but adapting to essentially being sixteen in a family that has authority over you but that is not even your own family. It is not an equal living situation. You also are constantly a guest in someone else's home, which makes it difficult to feel like you have your own home or life here and which is thoroughly exhausting for introverts like me.

I suggest that the Middlebury School in Paris, like the schools abroad in London and Madrid, offer student housing options where

students can live with each other as equals. I encourage future students in Paris to press for this option because I do not believe Middlebury has the right to tell 21-year-olds where to live. However, if for some reason Middlebury thinks it is their right to tell me where to live, then they have to absolutely assure me that it is not an oppressive environment. They cannot require that I live in homophobic housing or in housing where I am being treated as if I cannot make my own decisions.

Then there is the *bnévolat*, which roughly translates into community service. Middlebury requires that everyone do four hours of community service every week if they are not doing an internship. This is to integrate us into the community and to make sure we do something other than schoolwork. Sounds reasonable at first, right? Let's just take a minute to break it down anyway.

The Middlebury School in Paris requires 14 hours of class per week minimum, which already translates into five classes, rather than four, per semester. The coursework is, of course, in French and the methodology of assignments is entirely different, so the work takes much longer to do. Then we have to dedicate four hours of time to an activity that Middlebury chooses for us. Also, I go two days a week and it is an hour from my apartment, so I lose 4 hours to commute time and 8 hours total of my week — even if I wanted to go I'm unconvinced that it would be an efficient use of my time.

While all of us are very busy at Middlebury, most of us find ourselves involved in many activities or highly engaged in one. We choose to do this. But that's just it, we choose it. We choose what each activity is and how much time we have to dedicate to it. We make our choices based on how much we care about that particular activity, how stressful our workload that semester is, and what interests us. We use our own judgment. This required activity is an activity where we do not choose a) to do it at all b) what it is we're doing or c) how much time we reasonably have to devote to it. Middlebury makes all these decisions for us.

Middlebury justifies the *bnévolat* because it "integrates us into the community." The problem here is that they do not distinguish between communities. One of the most

common complaints at the Middlebury School in Paris is that it's very hard to meet French people our age. Already, that should be a red flag that something is functioning very wrong. If Middlebury wanted to help us settle into the "community," it should be the student community. It should be with the people that we most want to and are most likely to connect with. The problem boils down to two principles: Middlebury does not distinguish between communities (i.e. a community that would help us to build a home here vs. a community that adds little to our lives here) and they do not distinguish between students (they make us all do the same thing rather than naturally join activities that interest us).

I suggest that Middlebury abolish the requirement to do community service and, instead, offer a range of informational pamphlets and contact info for organizations that students may be interested in joining while they are here, on their own time and of their own volition. Don't get me wrong, I want to be involved. I just want to create my own experience and my own life like I would at Middlebury. I wish I had been able to take up the offer of my friends at Sciences Po to join them in the young socialists club and in other school organizations. I'd even have liked to be involved in the Sacré-Coeur youth group. As it was, the meetings were the same time as the Middlebury community service requirement and my time was already too limited to add more to my schedule. The individual choice and the ability to build a life and an identity like we do at Middlebury is so important and my two semesters without that have been frustrating and constricting.

I came here to create a life and a home in Paris. Unfortunately, Middlebury has hindered rather than helped this process. They have prevented me from having a physical space where I can express myself and they have prevented me from choosing the activities that I would like to get involved with. I have been treated like a kid who cannot be trusted to make his own decisions about how to best use his time. The Middlebury School in Paris needs to abandon this authoritarian approach to education and realign itself with the Middlebury values I chose when I decided to come here as a freshman.

STUDENTS SUPPORT RAINEY FOR SGA PRESIDENT

Over the past year, I have seen Charles grow into one of the most passionate leaders at Middlebury College. I know that "passionate" is a clichéd, worn-out term during election season, but Charles might be one of the only people I know truly deserving of the title. He has the type of passion that drives him to

READER OP-EDS

The following students support Charles Rainey for SGA President

stay up all night to accomplish his goals. He has the type of passion that you feel within minutes of speaking with him. He has the type of passion that I believe will make Middlebury a better place.

Charles is the right candidate at the right time for Middlebury. It is no secret that this past year our campus was ablaze with conflict, illuminating the fact that Middlebury has a lot of work to do in becoming a truly inclusive community. During my experience as an FYC and Vice President of Chromatic, I have worked to create welcoming communities throughout campus and I have realized how much work we have to do. This challenge, of making Middlebury a more inclusive community to all of our members, towers in importance over any other issue on our campus. Middlebury needs real change to become a more inclusive campus and I believe Charles is the candidate to accomplish this change to move our campus forward. On April 18, I will be voting for Charles Rainey.

-Matt Witkin '16.5

Out of all the candidates for the 2016-2017 SGA Presidency, Charles Rainey has proven himself as an individual committed unflinchingly to inclusivity and progressive change at Middlebury. His campaign is not about trivial reform - it is about a movement that

will define the legacy of our generation of Middlebury college students. Our institution stands at a crossroads of identity. We must now collectively commit with our entire will and capacity for action to one of two paths: the path that leads circularly to the majority-dominated and subversively exclusionary dynamics of the past, or the path that leads to — as Charles would put it — a Middlebury where everyone feels that they belong. The pursuit of this latter path is our greatest responsibility, and none of us embodies that pursuit so well and so courageously as Charles. I endorse, wholeheartedly, Charles Rainey for Middlebury's next SGA President, for few have yet so boldly envisioned an SGA that stands to combat the pervasive issues that affect us presently.

-Kyle Wright '19.5

I believe Charles Rainey is the best candidate for SGA President because after almost a year of being friends, classmates and members of the First Year Committee he has showed many others and me his intense desire in making Middlebury a place where more and more people can feel welcome and included. For example, in the First Year Committee he has proven great ability in organizing and managing with other board members events that foster community and stronger relationships among all the individuals in the first-year class.

Ultimately, although many have criticized his lack of seniority, I believe that indeed this point is negligible. In fact, Charles Rainey is the candidate that has the biggest amount of skills and enthusiasm to build and solidify a stronger college community. In the past year he has demonstrated great love and care for this institution and its students, and I am sure he will do the same in the next academic year. This is why I am voting for him, and this is why I hope other students will do so as well.

-Meron Benti '19

I have seen the passion Charles has to create change on campus from day one. I did not know who he was, why he was in a suit every time I would spot him, why I would see him have a conversation with a new somebody every minute I glanced at him. Apart from my guess that he was a freshman, what surprised me about Charles was the fact that he was determined and very persistent. I have never seen a first-year so engaged and so eager to be apart of the SGA than what I was seeing coming from him. Hence, I thought maybe he has purpose. I decided to approach him to see what perspectives he had to bringing change upon the Midd community. And by that sole interaction I automatically knew my hopes for Middlebury could be trusted in Charles Rainey.

From our very first interactions of me trying to know about his platform and who he is, he gave me his full attention. He listened as I poured my heart out concerning my own heartfelt exclusions about this place, on it being not as inclusive as I would want it to be — especially concerning my queer, trans and gender nonconforming community. Not only did he listen, but the minute I finished saying what this place needed to make me feel more supported, he broke down the steps of what he will do to make a step towards that inclusion. It was something I respected. Never have I felt my anti-bureaucratic feelings towards the SGA and Middlebury administration so far away from me when interacting with Charles. He makes it really easy to trust him because whatever he says he will do, he does. And he did do what he said he was to do that first interaction. If I have seen him do this as a first-year senator, I can only imagine how much the Middlebury student community, specifically the black, queer and of color students on campus can profit from his passions if he becomes president.

Keep it up Charles, we have faith in you.

-Yerlin Baez '16.5

As one of the co-directors of the SGA's Institutional Diversity Committee I would like to endorse Charles Rainey for SGA President.

Like many of the candidates in this election, Charles has experience in the SGA. However, unlike many of these candidates, Charles has worked in the SGA with a particular focus towards diversity and inclusion. For him, these issues are not platform topics created to respond to this past years' events. Diversity and inclusion are something that Charles has cared about before the sombrero incident. Charles' experience in the SGA with a particular focus on diversity and inclusion empowers him to be the most effective candidate on these issues.

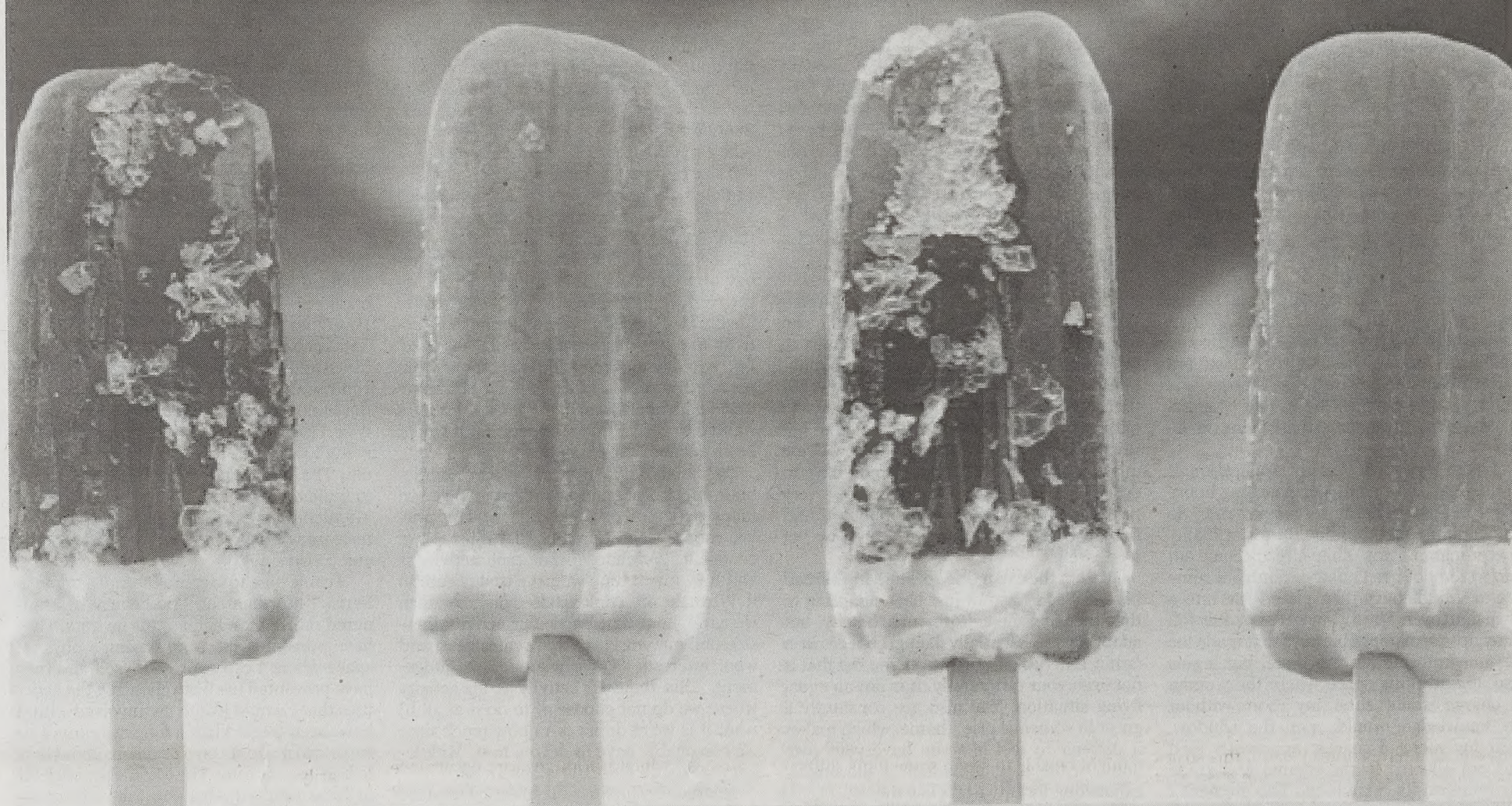
It is also important to note that Charles is one of the only candidates who does not talk about diversity and inclusion with coded language that dismisses marginalized people. Charles does not believe that those who have expressed their pain are "divisive" or "pessimistic." Furthermore, he is the only candidate who addresses diversity and inclusion with direct solutions.

Throughout this election, I have seen many of my peers express reservations about supporting Charles due to his young age. However, I believe that Charles' age is one of the reasons to support him. As a black woman who has grappled with issues of marginalization for four years, I am tired. Of course, I am not alone in this fatigue — throughout the years I have witnessed many of my marginalized peers (and allies who have dedicated their time to critiquing/fighting systems of oppression at Middlebury) burn out. In this respect, Charles' age is an advantage.

Overall, Charles has had personal and political experience with issues of diversity and inclusion. Throughout these experiences Charles has demonstrated an ability to assert himself and to listen to others — even when others are not willing to listen to him.

-Jasmine Ross '16

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Digital Humanities Presents New Avenues of Interpretation

By Renee Chang
Features Editor

It is increasingly difficult to envision the 21st century without the looming (and vaguely omnipotent) presence of technology. From social networks to instantaneous cloud-based sharing, modern technology has become somewhat of a secular God, shaping the way in which we interact with people and the biophysical world.

Considerably less attention, however, is paid to the way that technology can enhance and change the way in which we interact with art forms such as film, music and literature. This was the theme of Kevin L. Ferguson's April 5 talk, which delved into applications of the digital humanities in relation to film and media studies. In a lecture titled "Summed Slices: Digital Surrealism as Research Practice," Ferguson, an assistant professor of English and director of writing at Queens College (CUNY), spoke about the digital humanities as a way of "generating knowledge that is not otherwise accessible" through conventional learning methods.

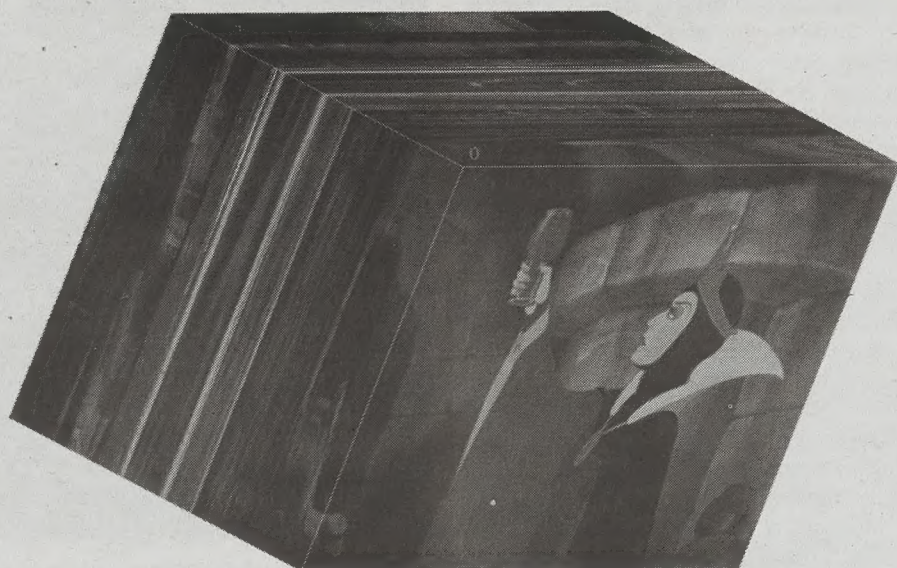
Inspired by the surrealist artists such as Salvador Dali — whose work embraces staggering juxtapositions of seemingly unrelated objects — Ferguson refers to these discoveries in the making as pieces of "irrational knowledge." Just as the visual surrealists engage in an artistic tradition that privileges experimentation, Ferguson hopes to use modern software in unconventional ways.

One such program is ImageJ, a Java-based program developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to aid scientists in microscopic analysis by dissecting a single image into its multiple constituents. This stacking process — or "summing of slices" — is what piqued Ferguson's interest in ImageJ.

"ImageJ works on these stacks of images, and as a film studies person, this struck me as being analogous to a film-strip as it passes in front of us," Ferguson said. "[In microscopy], when you want to take a photograph through a microscope of something really small, the depth of field gets smaller, so you take a bunch of successive pictures of each plane in focus. Later on, you stack them together to get a picture of a cell."

Though not a scientist by training, Ferguson's research uses ImageJ to create a three dimensional image of a film by "stacking" multiple stills into a single "volumetric rendering."

"I use (or misuse) the scientific image



KEVIN L. FERGUSON

This cube is a three-dimensional "summed slice" of Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* produced using ImageJ software discussed in the April 5 digital humanities lecture.

analysis software ImageJ to sum the frames of a movie into a single collapsed image, visualizing film and media texts in ways that are literally impossible to see otherwise."

As Ferguson takes a collection of 745 stills from Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and "sums" them in ImageJ, the result, at first glance, is single image abstraction that feels loaded with inextricable meaning.

And Ferguson himself acknowledges the strangeness of this experience. "The first thing I think that's worth looking at is just how defamiliarizing it is to have a temporal experience be made spatial."

Besides providing another perspective with which to consider visual media, the summed image also creates a proleptic glance into progression of the film. "You might be able to see in some films shifts (or particular rhythms) that are harder to tell in the experience of watching it but are easier to see when you make what you might call a kind of distant reading of the film."

These idiosyncratic rhythms that Ferguson gestures at become all the more apparent when he creates two dimensional summed images of Walt Disney Animation Studios' entire canon of films by "performing a different mathematical operation on the RGB (red, green, blue) values of each voxel — or volumized pixel — in the image."

From old classics such as *Bambi* (1942)

and *The Jungle Book* (1967) to contemporary features like *Big Hero Six* (2014), the two-dimensional "summed images" reveal distinctive aesthetic choices that likely would have escaped the conventional viewing experience.

"While the hue and central shape looks similar to *Jungle Book*, *Bambi's* summed frame has a darkened lower portion," notes Ferguson. "Closer investigation shows that animators often occluded the foreground of the frame with bushes, tree limbs, or other natural objects, creating a voyeuristic effect to make it seem as if viewers are peering through [the] underbrush to watch *Bambi's* life unfold."

Interesting differences also exist between widescreen films. The summed slice for *Frozen* reveals "two faint central shapes," which is a rather rare occurrence. "Unlike other widescreen films like *Sleeping Beauty*, *Frozen* uses its widescreen format to frame a preponderance of two-shots, emphasizing relationships between characters," said Ferguson.

Together, these observations all return to Ferguson's notion of digital surrealism, producing knowledge that is not so irrational after all. "In my method, I'm making an argument for a digital surrealism that isn't primarily aesthetic, but one that [can be used in an] comparative analysis to generate real knowledge."



Why Can't We Be Friends?

By Alex Forde
Contributing Writer

"He's becoming more and more of a douche."

"They wish they were at a state school."

"You see a girl hang out with them and you're just like, why?"

Those are all quotes from me or my friends about a group of four guys in our dorm. Guys that we like spending time with, guys that some of us consider friends, at least on certain days. But we don't think of them as human beings.

Maybe we think we do, but we don't. To us, they're labels — "fratty," "douche" — or cogs in the stories we tell each other. We play up their faults when it's funny to do so, or play them down when we feel like telling something more uplifting.

"He drank 16 beers. That's pretty impressive. We should do a power hour with him."

"He drank 16 beers and couldn't find his way back to the dorm. Classic them."

Even when we get deeper into our discussions, and try to analyze who they are as people, we still don't treat them like people. We use them to sharpen our thinking skills and to have fun socially analyzing our peers. And social analysis without compassion is just nerdy gossip.

Why do I say all this? Because it's scarily easy to dehumanize a person. You reduce them to the small portion of their actions that make good stories. You see patterns that are amusing and easy to spot, and then you let those patterns overtake your image of them.

The problem is that you forget the person underneath, or worse, never get to know that person in the first place. Valuing the stories you can tell about someone more than the moments you actually share with them precludes them from being your close friend. Because what you're really doing is separating your close friends — the recipients of your stories — from everyone else.

I realized my tendency to dehumanize people because of this column, actually. The aforementioned four guys had wanted me to write a column about them for a while, and I was enthusiastic. What fun it would be to write about a goofy group of hard partiers who sometimes say outrageous things, I thought. Their shenanigans make for punchy anecdotes, so they must provide the basis for a great friendship column.

But what the hell did I know about their friendship? They steal one another's beer sometimes, and they play video games, and they rib one another just like any group of friends. They sure seem like great pals, but how much did I really understand them? Did I have anything insightful to say about them? I realized the answer was no.

Now, after a week of concerted mental effort to not put them in a box labelled "parts for funny stories," and also some effort to not just switch them to a box labelled "parts for my column," I do understand them as people a little bit more.

That little bit of understanding could be part of a great column. Each one of the four interacts with girls differently, all because of a different set of experiences and hopes and priorities. One of the guys spent one night with a girl earlier in the year, and his roommate felt shaken. He said he didn't want to lose his best friend. That might not get laughs with my friends, but it's interesting as hell to me.

And it's human.

Students Visit Cuba, Service Community

By Joana Salievska
Contributing Writer

During Spring break, a group of seven College students took a trip to Cuba, where they worked on three tasks: brining surf gear to locals who have, for years, been deprived of surfboards due to the embargo, learning about local Voodoo practices and learning about how the health care system in Cuba has suffered as a result of the embargo's aftermath.

The group stayed with a host family outside of Havana. Christian Johansen '16.5, one of the leaders of the surfboard mission, said the family was incredibly kind and generous. "Angel, the head of the house, is this big man who loves smoking cigars, watching American music videos and telling stories. He just loves life."

Many of the locals the group encountered were vivacious. "People, like Angel, were warm and welcoming, but after a while, in our conversations, we could get to a deeper, darker place," said David Fuchs '17.

A couple of the students witnessed a darker event when they were together in an Internet park — one of the only spaces where locals can access Internet. While the students were sitting, a Cuban man walked by wearing a grain sack, and with tape on his mouth. The grain sack read: "The government took away my bike taxi. How am I supposed to eat now?" Within a few minutes, spectators gathered around the protest and the police were called.

"There was screaming and hollering. The man was carried down the street," Johansen said.

Christoph Niederhauser '16 added, "I wouldn't be surprised if he was in jail now."

Fuchs expressed a similar air of caution. "We have to be careful about how we think about Cuba. We rolled in for 10 days and none of us know how it really works. We understand that there is really limited political mobility and a bleak economic situation, but we cannot overgeneralize and say we know how the country works."

The College partially funded the group of students to travel to Cuba with the surf gear. The group acquired the gear by contacting several surf shops in the New England area. Although the surf gear's arrival was delayed due to unforeseen complications, the group was able to deliver the gear to local surfers well within their departure. "The hardest part, after getting the equipment, was finding people to give the gear to in Cuba," said Niederhauser.

The group went to the beach every day and spoke with locals to find out whether there were surfers in need of gear. Some people they spoke to laughed in their face. "Guys would laugh at us. They would say 'There aren't surfers here!'" Brown said.

But eventually the group was able to find surfers to give their gear too. "None of the equipment went to waste, which was cool. The best and most dedicated surfers get the best equipment," Fuchs said.

While looking for local surfers, the group was also able to learn about the Voodoo practices of Cuba. Sena Voncuji '17,

led this component of the trip. Voncuji's objective was to compare the Voodoo practices of his home, Ghana, to the Voodoo practices of Cuba. Working to destigmatize the practice of Voodoo in America, Voncuji has an exhibit in the McCullough Student Center featuring photographs of Voodoo practices, which will be up until the end of April.

Niederhauser said that one of the most memorable parts of the trip was getting to "witness Voodoo first hand. It was really eye-opening. I mean, when would I ever be able to see that anywhere else?"

A Molecular Biology and Biochemistry major, Niederhauser came on the trip to explore the Cuban health care system. "I was always told by my dad and by other people, that the Cuban health care system was the best in the world."

Because Cuba provides free medical school, there are many physicians in the country. However, the country lacks updated medical equipment because of the embargo.

"You can tell that the whole country lacks supplies," said Johansen. When you go to the super market there is one kind of oil. When you go to the hardware store, there is one brand of paint."

The group hopes to go back to Cuba. "All of our own goals were pretty much fulfilled," Niederhauser said.

Johansen added, "We made lots of connections with surfers and Cubans in Havana and outside of the city. We want to go back."

Venture Capitalist Launches College Strategy Initiative

By Ethan Brady
Features Editor

As part of a strategic planning process announced in March, the Office of the Provost hosted a talk by Bill Maris '97, titled "Vermont, Silicon Valley and the Future," on Friday, March 11 in Wilson Hall. The talk was the first of a speaker series focused on key themes of innovation and learning. Maris is the founder and C.E.O. of G.V., formerly known as Google Ventures, a venture capital investment firm owned by Alphabet Inc. that invests \$2.5 billion of its assets in life sciences, health and robotics.

On its website, the College described the strategy initiative, called "Envisioning Middlebury," as a campus-wide conversation aimed at shaping the future of the institution. The actual planning process is slated for 2017. The website does not specify which parties will directly participate in the planning.

President of the College Laurie L. Patton gave an introduction of Maris and described the College's new strategy initiative. "My intention for envisioning Middlebury is to have a conversation among all of us, about our perceptions, our visions, our hopes and our thoughts — about what our future should look like," she said.

Patton said that the initiative will be "a yearlong conversation, designed to engage all of Middlebury's locations, campuses and constituencies." The preliminary events,

"I didn't have any money, I didn't have any experience — all I had was a credit card."

including Maris' talk, are broken down into a speaker series, facilitated small group discussions and surveys of the student body. She said that this work will inform the community on priorities for the strategic plan, and that, for now, "the conversation is the strategy."

Maris' presentation was fast-paced, using vector cartoons to bring a touch of humor to his story. In telling the history of his start-up, he showed old photographs of his dorm room in Hepburn Hall and his first office in South Burlington. The audience delighted in his one-liners and running jokes, which included a Hard Rock Café T-shirt that appeared in several photographs.

Maris was a neuroscience major at the College and graduated with honors. He took "an equal number, literally," of classes in literature, sociology and Greek as he did

science classes, and attributed his versatility in the workplace to that fact.

Maris told several anecdotes about his experience in finance after graduation. "For those of you contemplating a career on Wall Street, don't do it," Maris said to laughter. He described himself as a hippie who casually strolled into work late and rejected the suit-and-tie dress code. One day, he said, while on a business trip to Sweden, he decided to quit and start an internet company.

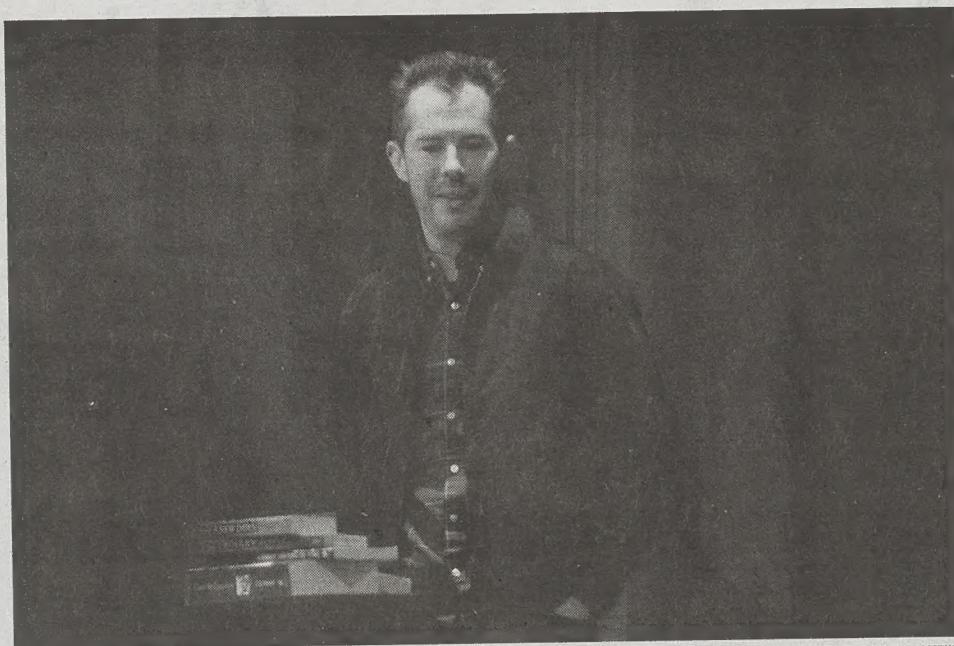
"I didn't have any money, I didn't have any experience — all I had was a credit card." He moved to Burlington because of its low cost of living, and he figured that the worst-case-scenario if the startup failed would be that he lived in a "beautiful area." In December 1998, Maris purchased three computer servers — he had not taken a single computer science class at the College — and filled a small office space in South Burlington with them.

Maris transitioned to the theme of technology and its rapid rate of development. He showed pictures of presidential inauguration ceremonies in 2006 and 2009, highlighting the devices that people were holding in the audience, to demonstrate his point that rapid change is hard to foresee. The 2006 image showed a man holding a laptop to the stage.

"This guy has invented the iPad," Maris quipped. The 2009 image showed almost everyone in the audience holding up digital cameras. "And if you were to fast-forward now to an inauguration, no one would have a camera — they would all have their phones." Computer machinery grows at an exponential rate, he said. He continued with examples like medicine, the human genome and the iron lung.

"These tools of innovation have and will enable revolutions in many fields," he said. Maris spoke particularly about the life sciences, in which his firm G.V. invests. Today, he said, a new pathogen takes about a day to sequence. He linked this to practical matters, like developments in cancer research. "Imagine if you had a computer that knew how every cancer patient had been treated, and every outcome. It could probably do a good job of telling your physician what protocol might be best for you. This is just the beginning," he proclaimed.

"When we think ahead to the future of 2030, and what that looks like, there's lots of possibilities," he said. "Lots of people tend to look forward to the negative possibilities. They fear the dystopian future of The Terminator." He suggested that people should have faith in the positives, since technology tends to be used for its highest



MICHAEL O'HARA / THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Bill Maris '97 used humor and personal anecdotes to talk about improving the world.

purpose in the end.

"If you don't hope that, and you don't think that, then you have no business doing my job. My job is to be incredibly skeptical, not optimistic and open to everything."

Maris gave examples of the positives that technology could give to society, and offered a vision of hope. "Today, I take for granted 140 megabits per second of internet in my house," he said. "We all take for granted penicillin, and the treatments that enabled us to live our incredibly fortunate lives. We take for granted that there's no polio, no small-pox, no bubonic plague."

He assured the audience, though, that it is normal and good to take those things for granted — "they're what enabled progress," he said. "In the future, I hope, my son and your children live in a world with no cancer, no disease. And I hope those are the things that everyone in the world should come to take for granted."

Distinguishing the innovation of technology with its distribution, he stressed that firms have "a responsibility to cultivate that kind of world." He spoke of "the cult of the entrepreneur" in Silicon Valley.

"Palo Alto is not the end-all be-all, but if you live there, you think it is. The great challenge for Silicon Valley is to distribute the technologies that enable us to have better lives around the world." Maris cited the average lifespans of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States — 46 compared to 79 — and offered that distribution of technology is just as important as disruption, or innovation.

"We should think about disruption just as much as we do distribution. When the

two curves match, great things will come," he said. "There's a lot of push to enable the internet all around the world. What if we did the same thing for healthcare, clean water and nutritious food?"

Susan Baldrige, provost of the College, asked Maris what he thought the College could do to improve itself. He said that the school could either make itself "like a museum or, instead, a living, breathing place. The best thing to do is to say yes — if the students want to go somewhere, say yes." He then related this proposition to his own experience at the College: "I could have gotten a great education at lot of places, but the experiences where I felt supported by the school made the difference."

He suggested that people should "entertain the world of possibilities, and start with yes. Thankfully my wife said yes instead of no, and thus we have a human," Maris said, speaking of his young child, who was in the audience. "You can make your own luck by being persistent — by being a heat-seeking missile."

Maris concluded his talk with a reflection on how unpredictable his life has been. For him, he said, life is about possibilities; taking the impossible or the improbable, and making it the actual.

"If you had told me when I was sitting in that dorm room in Hepburn that I would be running this venture fund at this company called Google that doesn't even exist at the time but will be the biggest company in the world, I would've thought that that's insane — that doesn't make any sense. And my next thought would be, how do I get there?"

Crossword

Greek Life

Puzzle by Sam Tauke

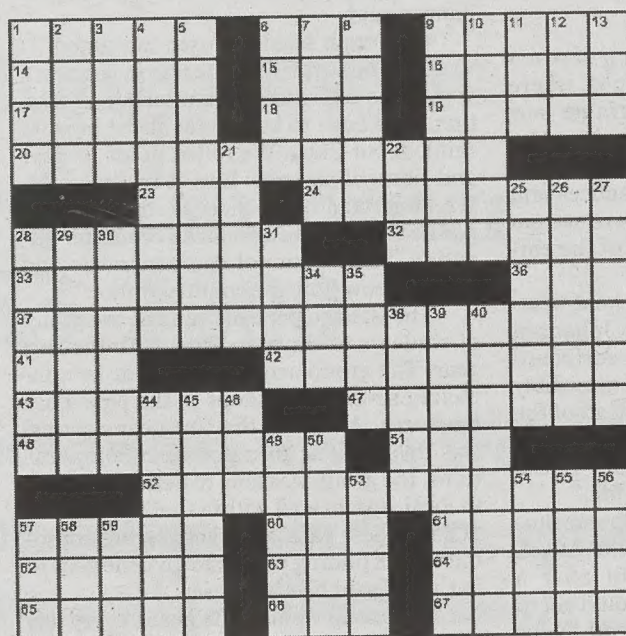
ACROSS

- 1 With 6-Across and 9-Across, an explosively appropriate name for drinks
- 6 See 1-Across
- 9 See 1-Across
- 14 "I'm going to ____ China!"
- 15 Shed Mountain ____
- 16 Loudly closes the door
- 17 Once around the track, in extra time
- 18 Former Japanese currency
- 19 The heck do ya mean, "The body was ____ to the wood chipper?"
- 20 Bhagavad Gita translator for Penguin
- 23 Explosive substance
- 24 Holy guitar player?
- 28 Academic dept. known for arid lectures?
- 32 How one might ask abt. when the doctor will arrive
- 33 A place where the
- 36 Service that Epic Systems provides, for short
- 37 2013 D3 Champions from Middlebury
- 41 Alkaline solution used in soap making
- 42 A lunch item at a diner
- 43 How the British author Sir Kingsley might introduce himself
- 47 "I don't have my homework, my ____ it" (bourgeois excuse)
- 48 Oxford style, one-on-one
- 51 Distributor of *The Wizard of Oz*
- 52 Predecessor of 20-Across
- 57 Get together of Madison Avenue types, for short
- 60 More info. coming later
- 61 Intermediate proof in a theorem

- 62 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God" location
- 63 One of Sauron's soldiers
- 64 Electronic Arts sleep time, for short
- 65 What 37-Across is played with
- 66 "____ dude?"
- 67 Place with the best Monday night beer deals

DOWN

- 1 Fox's "American ____"
- 2 She's a lovely meter maid
- 3 An Inuit house
- 4 South American monkey in outer space
- 5 What one might say when picking up the author of this puzzle
- 6 Complain, as about a trivial matter
- 7 Alternative name



Edited by Ethan Brady

- 8 ____-Center, for TVs
- 9 Comic Sans, for short
- 10 Suffix meaning "full of," in Latin
- 11 AMC's "____ Men"
- 12 Above 30 is considered unhealthy
- 13 Well-guarded no.
- 21 ____-Sketch
- 22 White collar requirement
- 25 A Winger or a Wilson
- 26 Vegetarian's request
- 27 A French pancake
- 28 Shirt about the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physics winner
- 29 All the sounds a cow makes?
- 30 Permitted to consume
- 31 Small amount
- 34 The ____, in N.Y.C.
- 35 Ruin, colloquially
- 38 Nursing program at U.Mass. Boston
- 39 Proclamation made after a long time wearing the Ring
- 40 Pool attire
- 44 See 45-Down
- 45 Type of humor lost on 44-Down
- 46 One of seven
- 49 Choir members with high voices
- 50 Columbus Day astrological sign
- 53 Per ____
- 54 What one might say their first time at a Greek letter convention?
- 55 Necessary item for getting around Boston public transit
- 56 Shoots with a ray gun
- 57 Steely Dan's sixth studio album
- 58 Its H.Q. is the Pentagon
- 59 Greek tea?

Historic Speech Competition Returns with Heated Preliminary, Semi and Finals to Come

By Emilie Munson
Features Editor

Nosagie Asaolu '18 stumbled into the room. Surprised, he glanced around at the panel of student judges arranged in half moon in front of him.

"What's going on in here?" he asked.

The students explained. This was the preliminary event for the 2016 Parker Merrill Speech Competition. Students were presenting three-minute previews of a short speech on a given subject. If selected, the orators would progress to a semi-final round and then a championship with a public audience. The winner would receive 500 dollars.

"Ok," Asaolu said, "what's the topic?"

A minute later he began, voice rising and falling as he spoke about his childhood in Lagos, Nigeria. His voice was rhythmic; his narrative gripping. It was a story, though removed, many students can relate to: the endless work and academic hoops that preceded life before Middlebury College. All he wanted to do, Asaolu said, was play chess.

"The only principle I have to guide me through the troubled times of life is belief," concluded Asaolu.

When I asked him later why he decided to speak he said, "I was looking for an empty room to study for my macro exam. I thought this was a good way to procrastinate."

Stiff Competition

Not everyone had such a serendipitous journey to the Parker Merrill preliminary. Many of the other competitors spoke of their

and seeing everyone react to it," said contestant Tabitha Mueller '18 about giving a speech.

In all, 24 contestants previewed their speeches on Sunday April 10 and Monday April 11 in the hopes of being chosen for the next round.

They are competing in a revived tradition: the first Parker Merrill Speech Competition took place in 1825 and took place annually until 1965. It is unclear why the competition stopped.

Recently, the competition was rediscovered by Oratory Now, a student organization started in 2014 that aims to help people speak with "conviction, sincerity and persuasive power," according to their mission statement.

"I'm addicted to that quick change potential that so many people have," said Dana Yeaton, visiting assistant professor of theater and director of Oratory Now. "For so many

people, public speaking is what they dread and they're just one good direction away from being highly effective, from making a quantum leap into becoming a truly dynamic speaker."

Yeaton and Oratory Now are happy to add the Parker Merrill Speech Competition to their events, which also include student workshops on rhetoric.

TABITHA MUELLER '18

petition to their events, which also include student workshops on rhetoric.

After the preliminary round, 12 candidates move on to a semi-final round on today, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Abernathy Room at Axinn Starr Library. The students appearing in the semi-finals are August Hutchinson '16.5, Bilal Ansar Khan '18, Brennan Delatre '16, Briana Garrett '19, David Valentin '19, Dominick Tanoh '18, Georgia Grace Edwards '18, Josh Espy '17, Nia Robinson '19, Peter Dykeman-Birmingham '18.5, Mueller and Asaolu.

Candidates receive coaching from Oratory Now members to help them prepare for the semi-finals. The 12 semi-finalists will again preview their speech, this time in front of a public audience. They will progress to the championship round only if they are elected by the panel of judges: James I. Armstrong Professor of Classics Jane Chaplin, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Theater Nathaniel Nesmith and Pardon Tillinghast Professor of Religion Larry Yarbrough.

In preparation for the final round, the six students invited to the championship will receive scriptwriting consulting from Former Governor of Vermont Jim Douglas.

On April 29, 2016, they will present a five to six-minute speech on the topic of "True North: A Principle to Guide Us Through Troubled Times." The championship event will be held at 7:30 PM in Dana Auditorium.

A winner will be chosen by a panel of alumni guest judges. These guest judges are



EMILIE MUNSON

Members of Oratory Now, including the student judges of the preliminary, pose. L to R: Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater Dana Yeaton, Alex Hogenhuis '19, Claudia Huerta '18, Ellen Colton '19, Raphael Mettle '18, Alex Brockelman '18 and Mariah Levin '16.5.

experts on rhetoric; they have spent their careers performing and thinking about public speaking. The judges include cofounder of TEDxMiddlebury Cloe Shasha '11, now a Content and Program Producer for TED, the Director of Implementation at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Dena Simmons '05 and Jay Heinrichs '77, author of the bestselling book *Thank You for Arguing* and a professional consultant for TED speakers.

These alumni will judge the student speakers on criteria based on the Five Canons of Rhetoric—the holy grail of public speaking if you will. In particular, judges will focus on invention, arrangement, style, delivery and memory.

"We're looking at the quality of the speaking and someone's ability to express themselves," explained Mariah Levin '16.5, an Oratory Now coach and a judge in the Parker Merrill preliminary.

The first place speech will receive \$500; the second, \$250.

In terms of the competition, Yeaton hopes that the final speeches are unorthodox.

"The ones we imagine have a kind of Moth element to them, but hopefully they also have a little scholarship, a little more intricate thinking to them," Yeaton said. "We didn't just come to hear a good story from

you; we want you to do what we've asked you to do which is give us a principle that could guide us."

The Seeds for Change

Yeaton envisions this speech competition as a force promoting conversation and self-reflection across the College's community.

"Part of what Oratory Now says in its mission is that by communicating with itself, a community thrives. We think of it as a way to foster an internal dialogue."

Others also view the Parker Merrill Speech Competition as a change to spark change.

"It's a unique opportunity to present

positive solutions in a way that sometimes there are less opportunities for here," said Espy, a semi-finalist and an Oratory Now coach. "It's a chance to say, 'Here's my idea. Here's why I believe in it. Here's what I would build, what I would make.' And I think that's really cool."

For others, like Asaolu, the chance to reflect, talk and be heard was too good to pass up.

"It's nice to talk. These are things I think about: what's a principle that you live by?" said Asaolu about the topic of the speeches. "And it's a really hard question to answer, especially if you're not religious. And I feel like that's part of the reason why we are all in college. To answer these questions."

DANA YEATON

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATRE



EMILIE MUNSON

Dana Yeaton and Tabitha Mueller play an oratory game to warm up before her preview.

nerves, of endless repetition, adrenaline, the fear of "blank brains."

"It's like presenting a piece of writing

WANT A PIECE OF THE ACTION?

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To express interest, please send an email to campus@middlebury.edu detailing the section(s) for which you'd like to write.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING

For many, spring break is synonymous with rest and relaxation. For some students, however, there could be no better time to dip their feet into the world of community service — and this year was not any different. Between the recent trip to Orleans, Vt. organized by students involved in the Middlebury Alternative Break Program (MAlt) and the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life's trip to Chicago, Ill., there was no shortage of meaningful social engagement.

Started in the mid-1990s by a group of students eager to service both local and global communities, MAlt has quickly expanded to become one of the College's hallmark student-initiated service programs. Over the course of the academic year, the MAlt program not only brings students together during breaks, but also gives them the opportunity to plan and lead their own trips. Historically, MAlt participants have found themselves spread the continental United States, ranging from the rural forests of Vermont to the heart of major urban centers including New York City and Chicago.

The Scott Center trip to Chicago mixed 23 students with seven members of the College staff, who bussed 16 hours each way to spend the break learning up-close and doing service work. Last year, Alternative Spring Break Trip alums who traveled to Alabama suggested this year's trip to Chicago. The students who participated varied from Chicago natives to those who had never visited the city, knowing only of its reputation as "one of the most dangerous cities in the U.S." Rabbi and Associate Chaplain for the College Ira Schiffer described the trip as an opportunity to discuss how "the social justice challenges facing Chicago and society at large will require your generation to engage for the long haul to build a more just society." Every student interviewed described the trip as a success.

Language in Motion Mini-MAlt Trip

Led by Kyler Blodgett '17, this year's "mini" MAlt trip took a group of five students to Lake Region Union High School and Brownington Central School in Orleans, Vt., which is located in what is known as the state's Northeast Kingdom. The trip was a collaborative effort with the College's Language in Motion (LiM) program, which puts Middlebury language students in touch with teachers to develop novel teaching plans.

"Language in Motion is an educational collaboration that connects Middlebury's international, study abroad, and upper level language students with local high school and middle school teachers, students and classrooms," said Kristen Mullins, who serves as the LiM Coordinator at the College. "In addition to supporting the developing global awareness and intercultural competence of the secondary students, students deepen and further the meaning and integration of their own intercultural experience in collaboration with others."

At the school, MAlt participants worked first hand to with students. "Students gave a full day of presentations, visiting over fifteen classroom and focusing on [topics including] cultural relativity, stereotypes, global perspectives on music, the global environment, student life in francophone cultures (specifically France and Cameroon), and community involvement and citizenship," said Mullins.

Although the students could only spend a short time at Lake Region and Brownington Central, the trip involved extensive planning and thought. "For every trip, it is very rewarding to see how much work students put into preparing to meaningfully enter into the community where they will be serving," said Ashley Laux, Associate Director of Community Engagement and campus advisor to MAlt.

"The passion and energy that students put into making the MAlt program their own inspires me each year. I see students come back to campus grappling with issues of privilege, social justice, citizenship and one's role in local and global communities. MAlt is wonderful because it serves as a springboard for many students to dive deeper into these issues and continue to engage as active citizens at Middlebury and in their own communities."



MAlt participants stand outside a historical building in Orleans, Vt., which is part of the state's Northeast Kingdom and in close proximity to the Canadian border. Photo credit: Ashley Laux

SPRING BREAK TRIPS



Panel reporting on the trip: L-R, Prof. J Finley, Nia Robinson '19, Shan Zeng '19 and Zarai Zaragoza '18 in Wilson Hall

Photo Credit: Yeager Anderson

Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life Alternative Spring Break Trip to Chicago

Associate Chaplain and Rabbi at the College Ira Schiffer helped coordinate the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life's Alternative Spring Break Trip to Chicago, where a group of 23 students and seven staff members spent the week learning about the intersection of arts and social justice. The trip participants studied the pros and cons of charter schools in the Chicago area, volunteered in meal preparation during a teachers' strike that left hungry students without access to public school lunches and visited the Chicago Young Authors program to witness young people "wrestle with the difficulties, challenges and prejudice they experience in their lives," Schiffer said.

"The Friday we were there, the Chicago Teachers Union had a strike, so the schools were closed," Nia Robinson '19 said. "While they were fighting for a great cause, it meant that thousands of students could not get the meals they count on from the schools. When we went to the Greater Chicago Food Depository, we packed Pop-Tarts that were to be sent to libraries and other spaces the students would use. It was nice to take part in the packing because we got to support the movement in several aspects. While we were not able to attend the strike, we were able to provide food for the students, the main focus of the strike."

Speaking about her own experience depending on public schools for meals, Briana Garrett '19 said she got a new perspective on her privileged life at the College. "This was a positive experience for me because I never consider how our faith or personal beliefs can guide the way in which we address social, political and economic issues," she said. "As someone who benefited from school food programs, I held the experience at the Food Depository close to my heart. We were packing food that could be distributed to food centers across the city for the day of the teachers' strike. Students often rely on school as a place for their meals and we were able to be a part of the process of getting meals to those kids across the city."

Meron Benti '19, for whom the trip was her first visit to Chicago, enjoyed the experience and would encourage other students to participate if the program is offered again next year. "I would definitely recommend this trip to others," she said. "In fact, before leaving for the week I did not know much about Chicago except for the fact that it was regarded one of the most dangerous cities in the U.S. However, by the end of the trip I had learned so much more about this city that is filled with history, art, culture, and great desire for social change. From participating in different religious ceremonies, to visiting different museums, attending open mic events and volunteering side to side with other Chicagoans, this trip has offered me an overview of Chicago that no other touristic tour would have given me."

Schiffer described the trip not only as a success for the students who participated, but as an opportunity to realize the impact that religious and spiritual organizations have on their communities. In addition, students were able to meet like-minded peers and begin conversations that will carry over onto the campus.

The trip was suggested by students from Chicago who went last year to Montgomery, Ala. to mark the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March. Both last year's trip and this year's highlighted the role that churches, synagogues and mosques can play in building their communities and helping to provide support, meaning and resources to address difficult issues and life situations," Schiffer said. "Our Spring Break Trips have brought together groups of students, who form an amazing cross section of the religious, cultural, regional and international diversity at Middlebury. Many of these students would not have met one another without this trip."

By Renee Chang and Henry Burnett
Design by Julia Hatheway

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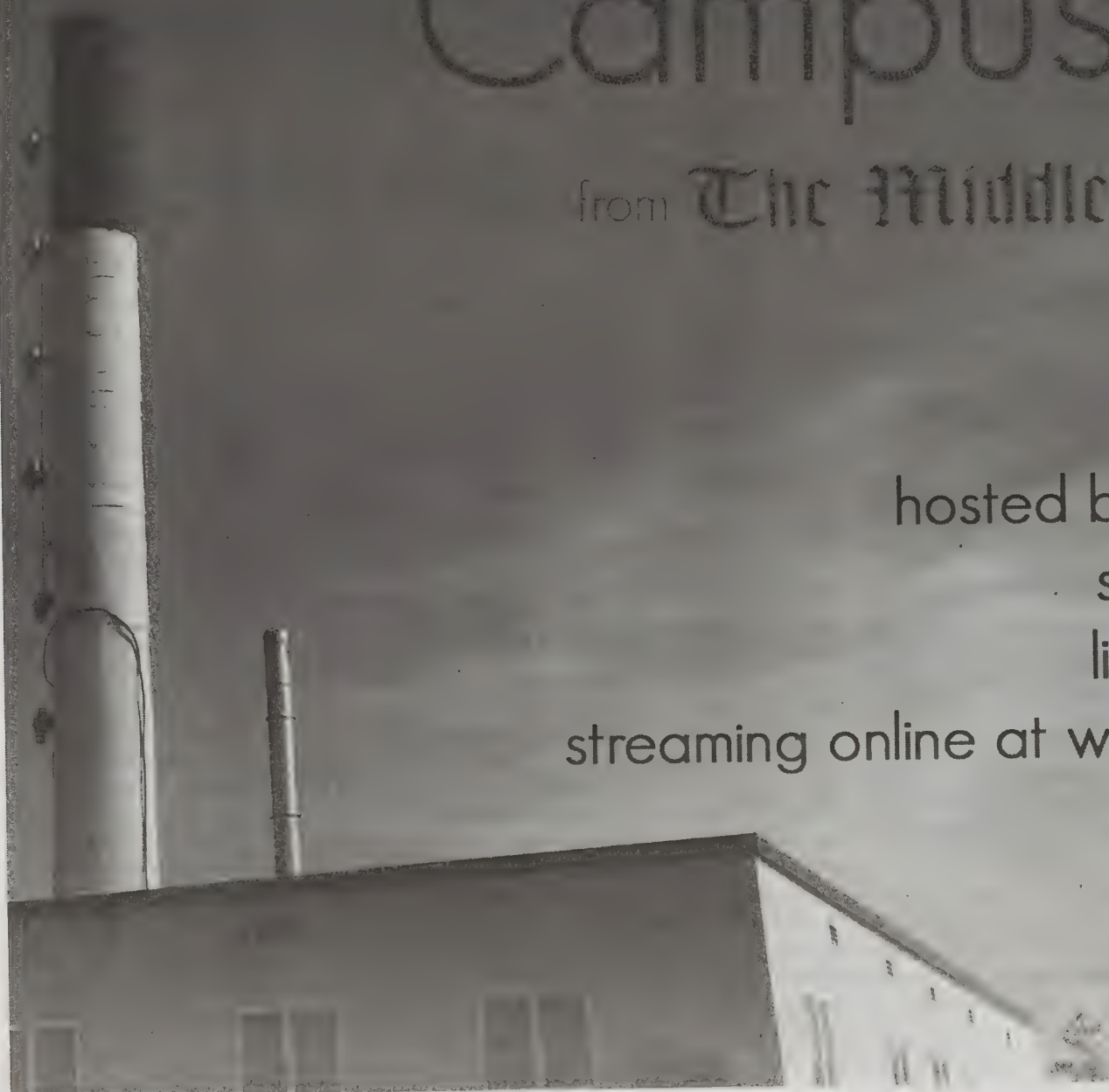
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ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

BØRNS Spring Concert Electrifies Crowd

By Devin McGrath-Conwell
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 9, indie-pop band BØRNS headlined the spring concert sponsored by the Middlebury College Activity Board (MCAB). Anticipation for the show had been building since the announcement of the headliner six weeks before the show. Students turned out en masse to see BØRNS and the opening act, Burlington-based Madaila, perform.

Local business Atomic Professional Audio spent the morning setting up the stage and sound before the bands' arrival. BØRNS, a five-piece group fronted by Michigan native lead singer Garrett Borns, whose name gives the group its name, arrived in Middlebury at 3 p.m. and began sound check an hour later at 4. With his long locks swept back underneath a gray beanie, Borns and company filled the empty Kenyon arena with crisp and energetic sound. At many points, there was a small crowd gathered to listen to the preview at the second floor entrance to the

arena. With a water polo tournament and lacrosse game happening on both sides of the arena, it was no surprise that such an event drew curiosity.

During the sound check, James Anderson of One if by Land Productions, the Boston-based agency that handled the booking of BØRNS for MCAB, spoke at length about the appeal of the band.

"I believe [Borns'] presence and style have earned him a fair comparison to David Bowie, if that's not too ambitious; powerfully catchy, anthemic and somehow a bit nostalgic."

-TESS WEITZNER '18.5

of \$15, a move that prompted many to buy tickets early, but did nothing to deter those in the lengthy line at the door prior to the show who did not want to miss out on the event.

Five hours later, BØRNS took the stage for an audience that quite easily may have reached Anderson's projected size. Playing an hour-long set, BØRNS played hits and

"There's something about BØRNS; this band just screams Middlebury," Anderson said. "We had sold 800 tickets by Wednesday, and were up to 1,100 [Friday]."

Tickets had been on sale since March 20 at \$8 a piece with a price at the door



MICHAEL O'HARA

Michigan-born singer Garrett Borns is the lead singer of the indie-pop band BØRNS.

highlights from their *Candy* EP and debut album *Dopamine* such as "American Money," "Past Lives," and "Electric Love," which served as an aptly electrifying closer to the set and an energizing sing-along with the crowd. Both performers and audience members were enjoying the show, with Borns himself noting between songs, "We flew from the other side of the country to play some songs for you guys. So far it's been f***ing worth it."

Within their set of originals, BØRNS also covered "Heroes" by David Bowie, the British superstar who died in January. The cover was a huge hit with the crowd.

"I think [their] cover of 'Heroes' sticks out as a highlight," said Katherine Brown '18, one of the two co-chairs of MCAB's Concerts Committee, the organization that planned the event. "Such a great song [and they] did a cool version."

The cover drew a parallel between Borns and Bowie. While their musical approaches may be divergent in some senses, with his long hair and high range, Borns seems to tap into some of the gendered-image-defying look that Bowie perfected over his career. "Heroes" was wrapped in as part of a medley with one the bands originals, and such a blending of old and new highlighted the bands musical chops.

"I believe [Borns'] presence and style have earned him a fair comparison to David Bowie, if that's not too ambitious; powerfully catchy, anthemic and somehow a bit nostalgic," Tess Weitzner '18.5 said.

The concert wrapped up just before 11:00 p.m. and most audience members appeared to walk away having enjoyed themselves, if with a slight disappointment on the run-time of the performance.

"As someone who listens to BØRNS, I was excited when [MCAB] announced they were going to play the spring concert. It was even more fun than I expected," Hope Allison '19.5 said. "My only complaint is that it didn't go on for longer."

Nonetheless, even with disappointment concerning the length of the performance, BØRNS did make a positive impression on the Middlebury community.

"I bought two songs today and they were both BØRNS," Grayson Ahl '19.5 said after attending the concert. "Definitely was not expecting that."

The show was seen as a resounding success from MCAB's perspective as well.

"The concert was a big success on a lot of levels," Brown said. "People were enjoying themselves whether they were dancing or just sitting and enjoying the music. [...] It feels really good for the Concerts committee to put on an event that draws such a large mix of students, community members and faculty."

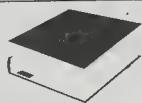
With a crowd that appeared to have nearly filled the space around the stage in Kenyon, it is no surprise that the concert can be seen as such a hit by the audience, those who planned it and the performers alike. Next year's headliner will have quite an act to follow.



MICHAEL O'HARA

Burlington band Madaila opened for BØRNS, taking the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

BOOKING IT



By Abigail Walton
Staff Columnist

The Archer's Heart by Astrid Amara is such a pleasure to read. I have read this novel more than three times, and each and every time I discover something that I missed before. This fantasy novel draws on elements of the *Mahabharata*, one of the two major Sanskrit epics, and is set in Marhavah, a land resembling India.

The Indian influence that prevails in this novel is a welcome change, as most other fantasy books are grounded in European roots. Amara creates a

world with magical elements that blend seamlessly with the historical tone of the novel. The nod to Hindu mythology is clear from beginning to end: Jandu wins Suraya's hand in marriage by shooting a fish in the eye without looking directly

at it; Suraya ends up marrying all three Paran brothers; and

the Yashva king bestows Jandu and Keshan with mystical gifts.

The protagonist, Prince Jandu Paran, may come across as a spoiled, brash boy at first, but do not let this discourage you. The novel chronicles his journey as he grows into someone worthy of his title. This is accomplished with the

help of Keshan Adaru, a man who stands at the forefront of change due to his gift of "The Sight." Charismatic and beautiful, Keshan is determined to abolish the caste system for the sake of gender equality.

Lust blossoms into love between Keshan and Jandu that exposes the men to each other's vastly different outlooks on life. Keshan becomes frustrated with Jandu as he tries — and fails, over and over again — to open his lover's eyes to the inherent unfairness built into the caste structure. Meanwhile, Jandu's complete

disregard for Keshan's radical beliefs is challenged by his inability to resist Keshan as a person. Over time,

Jandu matures from a young, arrogant warrior to a wise, older man. In this way, *The Archer's Heart* exemplifies the power of love to transform people.

This book will always have a very special place in my heart. Featuring excellent world-building and lyrical text, *The Archer's Heart* is a tale of betrayal,

adventure, war and love. Above all, however, it is a love story that will stay with you forever.

Featuring excellent world-building and lyrical text, *The Archer's Heart* is a tale of betrayal, adventure, war and love.

DON'T MISS THIS

The Pitchfork Disney

After the tragic death of their parents, twin siblings spend a decade locked away in a fantasy world until the door is opened and their worst nightmares invade. Deemed one of the originators of the "in-yer-face" theatre movement, this play explores fear and humanity's need for it.

4/14-4/16, 7:30 P.M.; 4/15, 10 P.M., HEPBURN ZOO

Heathers

This rock musical tells the mordantly delicious story of Veronica Sawyer, a brainy, beautiful teenage misfit who hustles her way into the most powerful and ruthless clique at Westerberg High: the Heathers. A hilarious, heartfelt and homicidal evening of entertainment based on the greatest teen comedy of all time.

4/14-4/16, 8 P.M., TOWN HALL THEATER

Middlebury College Orchestra Spring Concert

Student soloist Gioia Pappalardo '16 will be the featured artist in Charles Tomlinson Griffes' impressionistic *Poem for Flute and Orchestra*. The program will also include Robert Schumann's Fourth Symphony and *Bacchanal* from Camille Saint-Saëns' opera *Samson et Delilah*. Running time: one hour. Free.

4/16, 7 P.M., MCA CONCERT HALL

Bird Handles Dark Themes with Humor

By Will Simpson
Staff Writer

*Stupid F***ing Bird*, one of the College's spring faculty shows, started out strong on opening night last Thursday, April 7. Penned by Aaron Posner, the work explores the nature of art by successfully incorporating humorous elements into very serious themes. *Stupid F***ing Bird* is an adaptation of *The Seagull*, a work by 19th-century Russian playwright Anton Chekov. Fourth wall breaks occurred frequently throughout the show, with actors directly addressing audience members (or rather, strategically placed actors in the crowd) in amusing repartees.

Middlebury's show was directed by Cheryl Faraone, Professor of Theatre and Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies, and designed by a group of faculty members and students. *Stupid F***ing Bird* featured a talented student cast and crew, joined by Kevin Commins '76, who played the role of Sorn, and Adam Milano '15, who choreographed the show.

The play details a messy tangle of unrequited love between young adults Dev (Jackson Prince '17), Mash (Shannon Gibbs '18), Con (Jackson Prince '17) and Nina (Katie Weatherseed '16.5). When Con's actress mother, Emma, comes home with her self-obsessed writer boyfriend, Trigorin (Greg Swartz '17.5), these tensions reach a boiling point. Continuously

scornful of her son's work as a budding playwright, Emma ignites a fierce series of arguments and fails to notice Trigorin's relationship with Con's love interest, Nina. After Trigorin runs off with Nina, Con spirals into a depression. Years later, Mash and Dev raise a happy family together, while Con remains trapped by despair over his lost love. When Nina, Con's "seagull," comes back to town single, he tries one last time to win her over.

Dev's tumultuous relationship with his mother, as well as the complicated relationships between the young adults, set the stage for some spectacular arguments. Heated debates dominated several scenes in the show, an element that illustrated the actors' prowess at fully engaging in their characters but which became a bit repetitive and overly intense after a while.

*Stupid F***ing Bird* was spectacularly acted, with especially powerful performances from Kean Haunt '17 and Commins. Haunt shined in his monologues as Dev, in which he deftly balanced feigned intoxication with clear line delivery. Meanwhile, Commins was hysterical as Dev's uncle Sorn, playing up the age difference between himself and the rest of the performers and sparring well with Lana Meyer '17, who portrayed Dev's combative, distraught mother.

Although many plays have their actors simply mime the acts of eating, drinking or food preparation, *Stupid F***ing Bird* took



MICHAEL O'HARA

The Chekov-inspired play *Stupid F***ing Bird* premiered this weekend in the MCA.

the intriguing approaching of using all real food in the second act. A well-furnished kitchen set onstage became the centerpiece of a cocktail-making scene. As Sorn slowly and deliberately mixes himself a drink, he speaks to the audience with real bartending equipment and ingredients in his hands. These elements of realism set the scene effectively, making the audience feel as if they were actually watching family members going through their daily routines at home.

The set was very creatively designed, integrating a series of televisions with static images that could be changed to suit a particular scene. Arranged on large skeletal metal frames, the televisions could be quickly and easily shifted around between scenes. The use of images on these television screens instead of full-size backdrops was an interesting and unorthodox choice that ended up being quite eye-catching and engaging for the audience. For most of the play, one of the televisions featured a portrait of Chekov, as a tribute to the inspira-

tion behind *Stupid F***ing Bird*.

Even as the play explored unsettling themes such as family rupture, depression and suicide, it managed to incorporate healthy moments of humor to prevent scenes from becoming too bleak. The frequent fourth wall breaks that characterized the show helped to bolster these moments, with one character even quipping to another at one point, "[The audience] knows you're fictional." The jokes were well distributed throughout the show, keeping it entertaining without diminishing the seriousness of the darker themes addressed in the play.

*Stupid F***ing Bird* was a triumph, bringing together a talented group of students, faculty and local actors to form a funny and thought-provoking play. An attention-grabbing show from beginning to end, *Stupid F***ing Bird* quite literally ended with a bang as Dev fired a deafening shot into the air, sparks flying and smoke billowing from his prop revolver.



MICHAEL O'HARA

The three-act show explores a messy tangle of unrequited love between young adults.

PERFORMING ARTS SPOTLIGHT: KENDO

By Connor Forrest
Senior Columnist

Kendo, "The Way of the Sword," is the practice of Japanese fencing. One of the oldest and most celebrated of the Japanese martial arts, it is held in high regard in Japan as an important cultural legacy. Kendo has transcended its bloody origins in Japan's feudal past to become a modern martial discipline that instills courtesy, humility, self-control and fighting spirit through mentally intense and physically rigorous training. On Tuesday, April 19, there will be a free demonstration by members of Boston Kendo Kyokai and Boston Shufukai in the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCA) Dance Theatre.

Assistant Professor of History of Art and Architecture and Curator of Asian Art at the College Museum of Art, Dr. Sarah Laursen, was inspired to invite these practitioners to campus after unearthing a suit of ceremonial armor from the school's archives. The armor is an art piece on its stand, but its true beauty can only be appreciated within the context in which it was meant to be worn.

Modern Kendo began to form in the late 18th century with the introduction of protective equipment. Such protection is important because the four strike zones in Kendo correspond to the four areas associated with fatal wounds. The "men"

shields against strikes to the top of the head as well as stabs to the throat; the "do" is the chest plate that softens diagonal cuts across the torso; and "kote" are padded gloves that shield from slashes at the hand or wrist that would incapacitate the sword arm. These precautions sharply curtail the number of serious injuries sustained during practice and allow students to put their full power behind strikes.

Although the discipline suffered with the abolishment of the samurai class during the Meiji Restoration, it was revived as a way for police officers to defend against uprisings in the 1880s. Constant conflict through the latter half of the 19th century stimulated such widespread practice that Kendo was officially incorporated into middle school curriculum by WWI. By WWII, it was mandated for all boys. Although the practical applications of the armor were limited by evolving warfare techniques, the character, self-discipline and respect it symbolizes are timeless.

The first thing a student learns in the dojo is "rei," etiquette. Next, the different postures, footwork and sword-swinging techniques. Every martial art has a rigid sequence of motion that uniquely reflects the art. The 10 Kendo Kata are performed with a wooden sword, the "boken," and practiced between two people, the "Uchitachi" and the "Shidachi." The first sets the pace; the second



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

A Japanese fencing demonstration will take place in the MCA on Tuesday, April 19.

responds. Only with significant dedication and practice of these forms is a student allowed to begin training with "bogu," armor.

In every movement, it is crucial to coordinate the strike, footwork and shout of "kiai" so that they occur simultaneously, in one fluid expression. While beginners engage in a variety of drills, advanced

practitioners don their bogu and prepare for free practice (jigeiko), the actual fencing.

Tuesday's event is sponsored by the Department of History of Art and Architecture, the Middlebury College Museum of Art, the Program in East Asian Studies and the Department of Japanese Studies. The event is free and open to the public.

Mars Curiosity Lead Scientist Gives Talk

By Toby Aicher
Arts & Sciences Editor

Last Friday, April 7, Fletcher Jones Professor of Geology at Caltech John Grotzinger spoke about the current research of the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover mission. Grotzinger was the lead project scientist on the mission from 2011, when Curiosity landed, until 2015, and continues to play an active part in the scientific team that works with the Curiosity rover. Grotzinger summarized his research as trying to understand the “chronology of the evolution of the planet.”

The Curiosity rover was sent to Mars to build off the work of the Opportunity rover. One of the major upgrades on Curiosity is the addition of a drill, which allowed Curiosity to dig into the planet rather than simply visualize the surface. The central question the Curiosity rover seeks to answer is whether the planet was ever habitable for life.

“I’m not so sure there’s life there now, but it’s possible there could have been life early on Mars that went extinct,” Grotzinger said. “The planet went through an insane change when it lost all its water and all its atmosphere, which is not a good thing for life. When you look at these rocks, you see things that look so similar to the things you see on Earth that it’s really possible that there could have been life that emerged on Mars. We just have to figure out in our next mission in 2020 a way to return these rocks so we can really get our eyes onto them.”

For the Curiosity mission, NASA first had to pick a promising spot for Curiosity to land. Using a satellite sent to Mars with spectrophotometers, they were able to analyze the chemical composition of rocks on soils

“When you look at these rocks, you see things that look so similar to things you see on Earth that it’s really possible to imagine that there could have been life on Mars.”

—JOHN GROTZINGER
MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY SCIENTIST

While serving as a project scientist for the Mars Curiosity mission, Grotzinger found evidence for a previous abundance of water.

on Mars from orbit. One site, Gale crater, had a promising signal indicative of water. Gale crater was created by an impact millions of years ago and has a mountain called Mount Sharp in its center.

“Gale crater, the place where we landed Curiosity, is the lowest place on the planet for a thousand kilometers in any direction,” Grotzinger said. “We imagined it like a cesspool, it’s where all the water went on Mars. And if you send a rover there you have a really good chance of finding rocks with water in them.”

The rover successfully landed in Gale’s crater in 2011, and quickly started uncovering remarkable evidence that has changed our conception of Mars. The rover recently passed the one mile mark, and can travel at a maximum of 0.09

miles per hour. One incredible finding was that Mars wasn’t always red. At the first drill sight they uncovered grey soil.

“Mars is red because it has iron oxide in the dust and the soil. But the grey stuff underneath the surface tells us that there’s iron in a different chemical state that’s much more promising for habitability,” Grotzinger said.

Another remarkable result is that the Gale crater was likely the site of an ancient lake.

“Here’s the general theory the evidence suggests. We have a hole in the ground created by an impact 3.8 billion years ago. The hole was filled up with a bunch of sediments and river deposits and ancient lake deposits. Then the system went from a state of net desposition to a state of net erosion, and the wind swirls around in here for a long period of time that creates the mountain we see. We think that the lake varies and that sometimes it was dry and sometimes it was wet.”

Working on the Mars Curiosity mission has several challenging aspects, one

of which is that Mars has slightly longer days than Earth that last 24 hours and 39 minutes.

“What we do is work through the Mars night to process the data from the day and think about what we are going to do and send commands. You have to follow the Martian day. Every day you get up 39 minutes later, you have breakfast 39 minutes later and you go to work 39 minutes later. It’s like getting in an airplane and driving two-thirds of a time zone every day.”

Throughout his talk Grotzinger emphasized the large amount of research that still needs to be done to understand Mars and understand the planet’s evolution. He believed that Mars planetary science will flourish in the next decade.

“Although NASA’s funding has decreased recently, I’m optimistic about future research because of advances in fields like robotics and spectroscopy. These tools will enable us to do effective research with less money and answer questions we haven’t been able to approach until now.”

Women Forge Community Within CS

By Elizabeth Zhou
Arts & Sciences Editor

It is no secret that the computer science field – at the College and beyond – is largely dominated by males. An initiative spearheaded by Hannah Beach ’18 and Anna Parker ’17.5 is seeking to change this culture. Known as WiCs++ (pronounced as “wicks”), the newly formed Women in Computer Science Club is open to all female-identifying individuals in the department.

The idea for the group stemmed from an e-mail that Academic Department Coordinator Amy Rose and Professor of Computer Science Amy Briggs sent out to all female majors

and minors this past fall. Noticing a lack of community among this ever-growing demographic within the department, they proposed the creation of an official club. Now, Rose and Briggs – the only women within the eight-member computer science faculty team – serve as advisors to WiCs++. The goal is to forge connections within a field that has traditionally consisted of male-centric spaces.

For Beach, alienation within the computer science world has been a problem since high school.

“My experience in senior year was that everyone was talking about Star Wars all the time. I didn’t watch Star Wars,” she explained. “So I thought that I enjoyed comput-

er science, but if the people I work with can only talk about Star Wars and I don’t like Star Wars, is this the job for me?”

For many females, this isolation has persisted into higher education.

“I don’t want to speak for everyone’s experience, but I’ve found that boys in CS tend to find their communities in computer science,” Parker said. “Girls who major in CS tend to take the classes but find their community elsewhere.”

Last Wednesday, April 6, marked the first official WiCs++ gathering, which centered on tech prep and was designed to attract a larger group of any interested parties. Soon to become a regular installation of WiCs++, tech prep sessions offer a practical overview to participants hoping to enter the professional world of computer science.

“For many CS jobs, the interview process is very technical. Intro-level classes cover this, but if you take them your freshman or sophomore year, it’s easy to lose that information later,” Parker said. “Tech prep meetings seek to help review these concepts.”

The club also hopes to instill an appreciation for the real-life applications of coding. Last Friday, WiCs++ hosted a game night open to anyone of any experience level. Students had the opportunity to try on virtual reality goggles while bonding with other tech enthusiasts.

The next project in the works is a conference linked to Girl Develop It, an organization that sets up tech meet-ups for women at

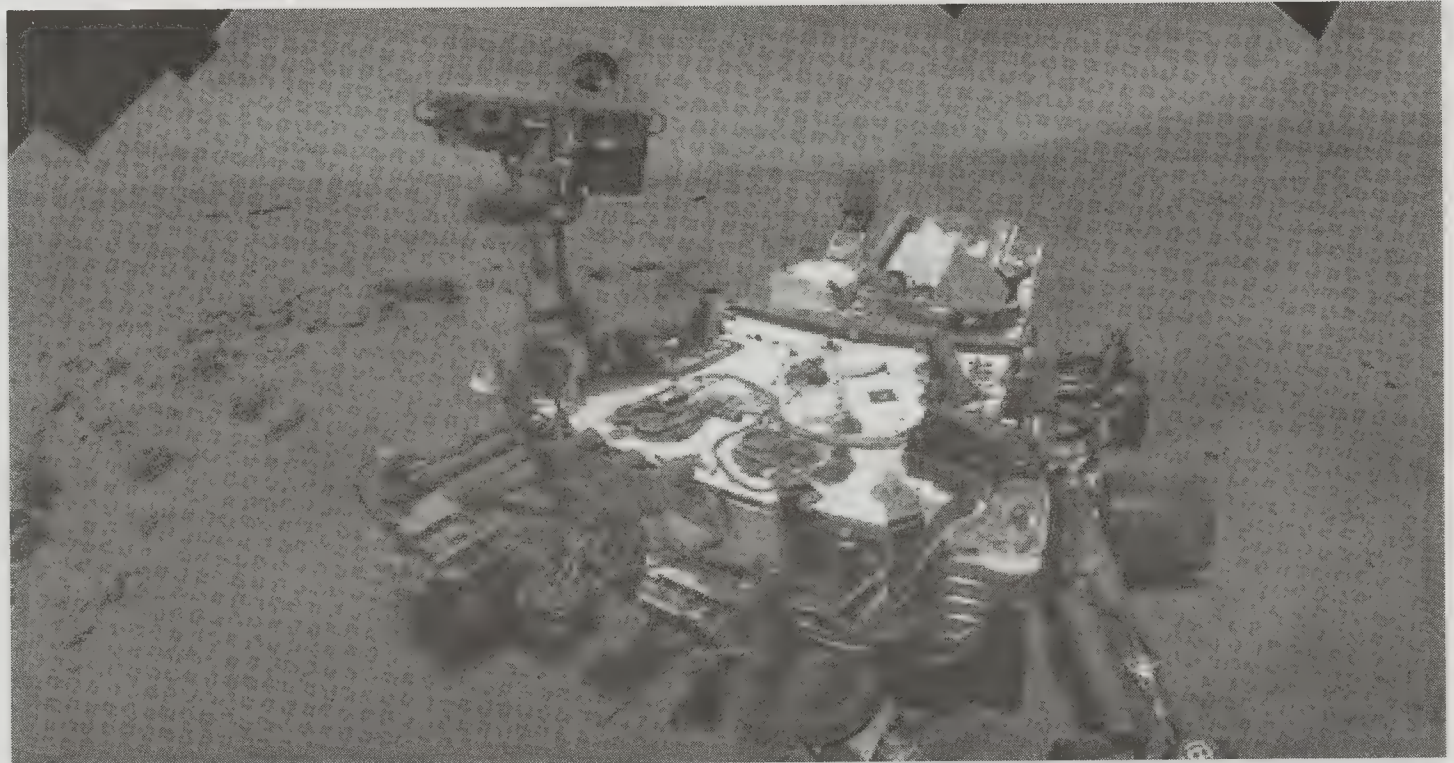
various meeting points around the country. Scheduled for April 23, the event will feature a panel of guest speakers and computer science faculty members, as well as a workshop with robotic controllers.

“The goal of the workshop is to be as welcoming and unthreatening as possible,” said Parker. “These are things that are generally lacking from the computer science department, and we think it’s one of the reasons why there are fewer women and fewer underrepresented groups in the field. It’s hard for people to come in and see themselves breaking into that demographic.”

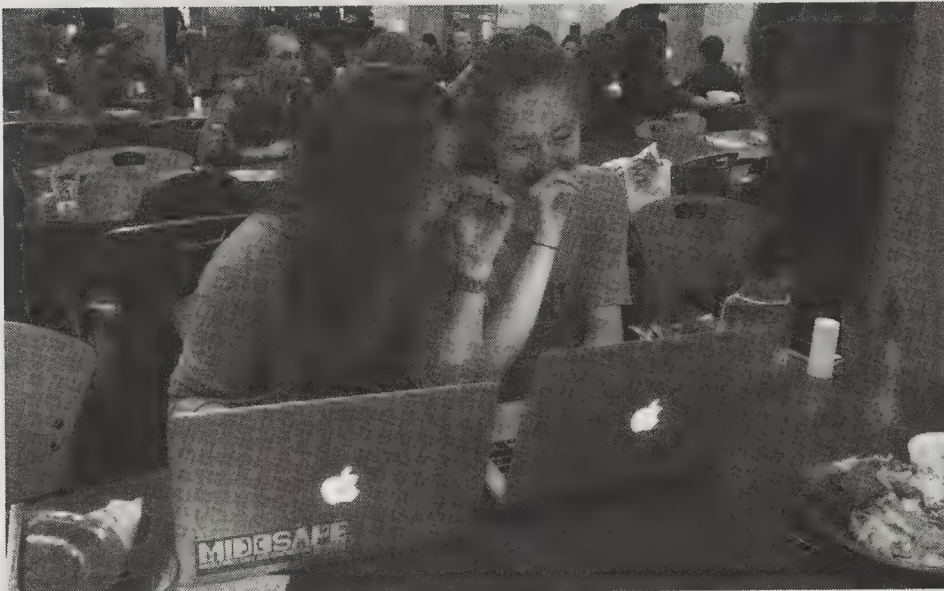
The efforts of WiCs++ to empower traditionally marginalized identities come as part of an important larger-scale movement. All across the United States, chapters of

Women in Computer Science have been cropping up at institutions like Dartmouth College and Columbia University. The impact of WiCs++ extends far beyond the college years as well; diversity initiatives at the higher education level will provide tech companies with a larger pool of qualified candidates to choose from once these students graduate. In the meantime, females with a passion for coding will experience greater comfort and accessibility both inside and outside the classroom.

“We’re building a community in a department where that has never existed,” Beach explained. “Joining this club now, I feel I have so many more connections that I did not have before. It’s made my classes a lot less intimidating.”



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ELIZABETH ZHOU

Co-presidents Hannah Beach and Anna Parker bond while organizing for WiCs++.



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Softball Hampered by Weather in Opening Games

By Sebastian Sanchez
 Staff Writer

Delayed flights and other travel difficulties gave the softball team only two hours of sleep on the first day of their spring break trip to Clermont, Fla. However, the Panthers fought through exhaustion and split the doubleheader against Southern Maine and West Virginia.

The Panthers began the trip on Friday, March 25 with a win against Southern Maine. Neve Stearns '16 got the save after tossing the final three frames, striking out three and walking two.

Their loss came against West Virginia University Institute of Technology with a score of 11-5. Though West Virginia scored 11 runs, Middlebury's offense was highlighted by Hye-Jin Kim '17's two-run home run in the second inning.

On Saturday, March 26 the Panthers won two out of three games. The loss came to the University of Chicago in a tight contest all the way through seven innings; the Maroons managed to score a run in the top of the seventh inning to pull ahead.

The loss seemed to fuel Middlebury as they won the next two games against Oberlin and Thomas. Sarah Freyre '17 went 4-7 with three RBIs as the Panthers scored a total of 19 runs in 10 innings.

The action never stopped as the Panthers were back at it again with a triple-header on Sunday, March 27. They started the day with a thrilling win over Buffalo State as they were down 5-0 coming into the 4th inning. They scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth off a Siobhan O'Sullivan '17 lead-off double, followed up with a single by Erin Giles '17 and another double by Ande Troutman '19.

An old saying goes, "Get em' on, get em' over and get em' in" and Middlebury did just that. Carlyn Vachow '16 reached on a single and soon scored after a laid down by Giles and a single by Kim drove Vachow home for the win.

In the second game, the Panthers beat Thomas again 5-2. Sullivan and Vachow both went 2-4 and Sullivan recorded two more RBIs; she finished

with four in the two games.

In the final game of the trip, Middlebury lost to Luther 5-0 after they were unable to get their bats going. The Panthers finished their tour to Clermont with a 5-3 record and headed back to Vermont to face Amherst in a NESCAC three-game series.

When asked about the trip, Ali Della Volpe '18 only spoke in positive tones.

"Overall I think our team did very well. We won the games we should've won and although we suffered a few losses, our energy and effort was always there!"

Vachow praised her team highly after the yearly trip. She was very pleased with the team chemistry and how the team fought the fatigue.

"The Florida trip was great. We showed how resilient we are and we had some serious trouble traveling, but instead of using it as an excuse for a bad performance, we played through it and did a stellar job. I was so impressed with the overall display of maturity and resilience."

The Panthers faced the Lord Jeffs on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2. In the first game of the series, Middlebury led into the top of the seventh inning 3-2. However, Amherst proved their toughness by scoring a run in the bottom of the inning to force extras. The game went scoreless through the eight; however, Brianna Cook hit a two-run walk off in the bottom of the ninth inning to end the game.

The series continued on Saturday with a doubleheader. In the first game, Amherst's bats exploded in the bottom of the fifth to give them a 7-3 lead. Unfortunately, Middlebury could not come back from the deficit and they lost 7-4. In the second game, which was suspended due to darkness, the bats came alive for

the Panthers as they scored five runs in the top of the second inning. Before the umpires called the game, Middlebury was leading 9-6 in the fifth.

"Amherst was tough. They're great team and even though we did a great job hitting," Vachow said, "the hits didn't quite fall."

Della Volpe shared the same sentiments as her captain after reflecting on

the NESCAC opener.

"After playing Amherst, we learned that we can't take any NESCAC team lightly. We are definitely as good as them, if not better."

Heading into the week, the Panthers held a 5-5 record. They were scheduled to play two games against Union on April 6. Heavy snow fell in Middlebury, Vermont, but the Panthers trudged on through four innings.

Gardner, a California native, was amazed by the team's commitment to play in harsh conditions.

"The snow game was something new, I think there are a majority of people on the team who have never played while it has been snowing and it was definitely a fun, cold experience. It is a bummer that we couldn't finish the games against Union, but at least it was something memorable."

The doubleheader was postponed after the fourth inning after light snow turned into a heavy blizzard. The Panthers looked to finish the last four games of the week on a high note.

On Friday, April 8, Middlebury played Skidmore in a two game, home opening doubleheader. In the first contest, the Thoroughbreds capitalized on an early five-run lead in the second inning and the Panthers could not string their nine hits together to make the comeback. In the second game, the Panthers looked to split the series.

Once again, the bats exploded for Middlebury as they tallied 13 total hits. Jackie Stern '16 kickstarted the first inning with a single and later scored when Giles doubled to left center. O'Sullivan doubled to left center to score Giles and another double by Freyre scored O'Sullivan. Though the Thoroughbreds chipped away with back-to-back triples in the third and a solo home run in the fourth, Skidmore could not touch Neve Stearns '16 who retired the final ten batters and finished the game with two runs allowed and five strikeouts.

After the win in game two against Skidmore, the Panthers clicked to produce a weekend of stellar pitching and powerful offense. The Spartans led the Panthers 2-0 coming into the bottom

of the fifth inning. Here the comeback began as Middlebury collected three straight hits to load the bases with one out and a sacrifice fly by Kati Dackowski '18 to score the first run.

After tying the game in the sixth inning, Middlebury and Castleton remained deadlocked 2-2 coming into the bottom of the seventh inning. Dackowski started the inning with a single and scored after Giles roped a double off the wall to win the game. Allison Quigley '18 pitched a complete game

with a stellar performance. She allowed two runs off six hits with a season high 10 strikeouts.

In the second game, the Spartans could not match the momentum fueled by the walk-off win and the Panthers won 6-0 on 14 hits. Stearns pitched a complete shutout gem with four strikeouts and no walks.

Liza Tarr '19 spoke highly of the performance of the pitchers

"It is a time to keep getting better. This past weekend, we showed that we have the tools and that we are improving in all aspects of the game, so it's time to keep going!"

CARLYN VACHOW '16

SOFTBALL

this weekend.

"This weekend, the games were great. Our pitchers were [absolutely] fantastic. Allison [Quigley] kept the team in the first game with 10 K's when we weren't really producing offensively," Tarr said. "Our pitchers were our rocks this weekend."

The Panthers recorded 14 total strikeouts as both Quigley and Stearns went the distance to boost the team to wins. Vachow praised not only the pitchers but also the hitters whose bats came alive in timely situations.

"This weekend was a rock star performance from our hitters and our pitchers. Our offensive was relentless. Hitting bombs and punishing the defense for mistakes like not choosing to intentionally walk some of our hitters."

The Panthers hope to carry this momentum through the week and into the weekend as they prepare to take on the Wesleyan Cardinals in their second NESCAC series.

"Our weekday's game this week are scheduled to make sure we stay sharp and prepared for Wesleyan this weekend" said Vachow said. "It is a time to keep getting better. This past weekend, we showed that we have the tools and that we are improving in all aspects of the game, so it's time to keep going!"

GOLF TEAMS KICK OFF SPRING SEASON WITH WOMEN IN THIRD, MEN IN NINTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

a player on Middlebury's roster. Ko shot a 76 on Saturday and then a 74 on Sunday for a cumulative weekend score of 150, which was good for a tie for fifth on the individual leader board.

"The strongest part of my game," said Ko, "was definitely my ball striking, in particular my irons. It was a major focus during the preseason because we have such a short period of time after the season starts to really get back into the groove."

Like Morin, Ko said that the weather conditions contributed to the overall tough weekend for the Panthers.

"It rained all day on Saturday," Ko reported, "and we teed off in 30 degree weather on Sunday. Although the course was not too long, the wind, coldness and wetness definitely contributed to making the course play longer and more difficult."

Bennett Doherty '18, co-Champion at

last year's NESCAC Championship with Fitz Bowen '17, said he felt he is starting to hone in on his game.

As the conference tournament nears, everyone on the team is looking to continue improving their games to try and help the team any way they can.

"I think the team was a little disappointed by our overall performance this weekend," Doherty said. "The whole team can take positives from it. Joe and Phil played well and all the guys had some good holes and now have a better sense of what they need to work on. I think we are in a good spot, and we know that there is plenty of room for improvement."

Asked if he expects to be one of the five players who will try and help the Panthers' three-peat at NESCACs later this month, Ko said that he does not think anyone expects to be one of the five.

"Everyone on the team is working hard

and pushing each other to be better," Ko said. "We are all practicing with the mindset that it could be anyone of us who fill up the lineup for NESCACs. And I am fully confident that the five who will represent the team in NESCACs will be successful."

Both the men's and women's teams are back in action this weekend, April 16-17. The men's team will compete at the Johnson & Wales Wildcat Spring Opener at Cranston Country Club in Cranston, R.I. while the women's team heads to the Jack Leamon Invitational at Amherst Golf Course in Amherst, Mass.

"We know that being defending champs there is some pressure on us to do it again," Morin said. "We are trying to gear our mindset from being the 'hunted' to doing the 'hunting,' because we know that we can't get complacent after a good season last year. Our team chemistry embodies the team aspect of the competition, and, even though

it may feel like an individual sport at times, guys are always competing for the other guys on and off the course."

BY THE NUMB3RS

2 Earned runs allowed by NESCAC Pitcher of the Week Neve Stearns '16 over 14 innings on the mound for the Middlebury softball team.

Faceoffs won by the men's lacrosse team in their 15-12 victory over Bates on Saturday. **23**

12 Seconds separating a pair of goals for Alli Sciarretta '16 in a 12-5 victory over Bates for the women's lacrosse team.

Events won by the women's track and field team at Saturday's quad meet hosted by Springfield. **19**

Baseball Sits at 6-10 Following Spring Break Trip to Arizona

By Ethan Brady
Features Editor

After an eventful few weeks that included the annual spring trip to Tucson, Ariz. the baseball team is 6-10. One of the more stunning results of the trip was that the Panthers took two of three from Williams, which they followed by taking one of three in their series at Wesleyan to bring the Panthers to 3-3 in conference play and third in the West division.

The team began their spring trip with an 8-4 win over Oberlin on March 26, before losing the night game 5-3. In the day matchup, Middlebury dominated the first inning, highlighted by a Jason Lock '17 two-run double to score Max Araya '16 and Jake Turtel '18.

The Panthers took a 4-0 advantage into the top of the fifth when Oberlin scored two runs on three hits. Middlebury blew the game open in the bottom of that inning with four runs. Dylan Takamori '17 eventually closed out the game in the seventh inning.

In the second game, the Yeomen filled the scoreboard with three runs in the bottom of the second inning. The Panthers responded in the third with a Lock single that resulted in a Turtel score. Leading 3-1, Oberlin tallied another on a double down the left field line. Middlebury scored a pair of runs in the fifth, as Johnny Read '17 raced home on a single by Araya and Turtel scored on a sac-fly by Joe MacDonald '16.

Oberlin brought it to 5-3 in the bottom of the fifth. At the top of the seventh with two runners on and one out, Middlebury tried to pull in the lead, but the Oberlin reliever sealed a victory with a fly out and a pop-up.

On March 27, the Panthers lost to Carthage 13-8 after they allowed six runs in the second inning. Middlebury took the early lead in the opening inning with runs by Turtel and Araya. In the second, Drew Coash '18 walked, eventually running home on a wild pitch.

Carthage struck for six runs in its half of the second, all of them unearned. After the Panthers retired the first two batters of the inning, an error extended the inning and the

Red Men had nine straight batters reach base to take a 6-3 lead. Carthage extended that lead to 8-3, but Middlebury bounced back with a pair of runs by Turtel and Lock in the fourth.

In the bottom half of the fourth, Carthage countered with three more runs and added another in the fifth. In the eighth inning, with the score at 13-6, Middlebury managed another two runs to bring their deficit to four, but the score was final at 13-8.

The next day, Middlebury dropped a pair of games, the first a 29-8 blowout against Westminster College in Missouri and the second a tight 10-9 loss against Gustavus Adolphus.

In game two, Middlebury took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning by Araya and MacDonald. The Golden Gusties tied the game up in the second half of the inning with runs of their own. In the fourth, Gustavus Adolphus sent six runners to home plate, but the Panthers battled back in the fifth with a four spot that culminated in a sac-fly by MacDonald.

After Middlebury knotted the game at 8-8 in the sixth, Gustavus Adolphus scored to take a 9-8 advantage. The Panthers bounced back again on an RBI groundout by Spencer Tonies '19. Relief pitcher Takamori stepped in, but forced a fielder's choice that allowed Gustavus Adolphus to score the game-winning run.

Middlebury faced Westminster again the next day, falling 15-14 in a tight game. The Panthers again took an early lead, this time 3-0 with singles by John Luke '16 and Alex Deutsch '18 and a double by Read. Westminster scored the next five runs, and the Panthers sealed a pair of runs in the top of the fifth.

Behind 14-8 in the eighth, Westminster made five straight singles in the eighth inning and scored for seven runs. The Panthers went quietly in the ninth, falling 15-14 in a devastating loss.

Adding insult to injury, the Panthers lost to Gustavus Adolphus for a second time the next day. Like most games, the Blue took an early lead, with a run by Graf. Gustavus Adolphus struck for three in the second, though,

which Middlebury could only match by single tallies in the third and fifth innings. The Golden Gusties scored a decisive pair of runs in the sixth, and the Panthers could not muster an answer during the final three innings.

Middlebury began a three-game series against Williams on April 1. After dropping the first game, the Panthers won the next two.

In the second game of the series, Middlebury was first on the board with an Araya single in the second. Williams subsequently tied the game on a sac-fly to deep center and the game remained knotted at one until the bottom of the seventh when Spencer Tonies '19 scored a wild pitch.

In the second half of the double-header, the Panthers again were the first on the board, breaking the game open with six runs in the third. A sac-fly by Tonies scored Turtel, followed by a bases-loaded that scored Luke. The stunner of the series was Raj Palekar '18, who crushed a bases-clearing triple to center field and gave Middlebury a four-run lead. Deutsch drove Palekar home on a single to make it 6-1, which was all the Panthers would need as they added some insurance runs for an eventual 11-4 win.

Following their spring trip, the Panthers headed to Middletown, Conn. on April 8 to face Wesleyan and took game one of a three-game series 7-4, but dropped both caps of a doubleheader the next day.

In the opener, Middlebury jumped to a lead with three runs on three hits, with runs by Phil Bernstein '19, Turtel and Brendan Donohue '18. The Cardinals scored in the bottom half of the inning, then made it 3-2 in the third. By the bottom of the fifth, a Wesleyan sac-fly tied the game at three.

Middlebury broke the tie in the sixth after Donohue scored Graf with a shot to left. Middlebury then scored two more runs thanks to a Wesleyan error, which Tonies followed by hitting a double down the left-field line to make it 7-3.

Takamori worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and the Panthers then held on for a 7-4 win.

On April 9, the Panthers dropped both bills of their double header with the Cardi-

nals. Trailing 5-0 in the fourth Graf sent a double down the left-field. He then scored on a Bernstein fielder's choice which put Middlebury on the board. The Cardinals extended their lead by three in the second half of the inning and kept the Panthers off the scoreboard for the final three innings for an 8-1 final.

In game two, the Cardinals broke away early with six runs in the third inning, creating a deficit the Panthers could not overcome as they dropped the last game 10-2.

The Panthers came back to win their home opener 4-0 over Norwich at Forbes Field on Monday, April 11, highlighted by Colin Waters '19, who tossed a two-hit gem for his first collegiate win.

Waters got out of danger in the first with runners on the corners, but he retired three straight to end the threat. In the bottom of the inning, Graf scored on a Luke single and the Panthers would later extend their lead to 2-0 in the third on a MacDonald two-out single.

"The game started off with far from ideal conditions," Waters said. "It was raining and the mound was very slippery so I was just focused on throwing strikes and pitching for contact. As the game went on, both the weather and my confidence improved."

The Panthers extended their lead in the seventh on a Sebastian Sanchez '18 suicide squeeze that scored Coash. In the eighth, Araya singled to first and was able to score on a Luke double.

Waters retired the final 11 batters he faced and was helped by sparkling defensive plays by a pair of diving grabs by Donohue and Coash.

"The defense behind me made great plays," Waters said. "Drew Coash, Brendan Donahue and John Read in particular all made fantastic plays in the field, and Max Araya played awesome behind the plate, blocking all pitches I threw in the dirt. It was great to know that if Norwich put the ball in play, the guys behind me would make the out."

The Panthers return to action at Hamilton on Friday, April 15.

Track and Field Begins Outdoor With Good Momentum

By Colby Morris
Staff Writer

As it continued to snow in Middlebury over spring break, the track & field team started off the outdoor season on the other side of the country. Both the men's and women's teams had two meets in the San Diego area before returning home this weekend to compete at Springfield College. In the first meet of the season on Saturday, March 26, the day after arriving in San Diego at the Point Loma Nazarene University Collegiate Invitational, both teams fared well, with the men's team coming in 7th out of 21 teams and the women's team coming in 6th out of 18 teams.

At PLNU, Alex Morris '16 broke the Middlebury women's school record in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.06 seconds, good for second place in the event. Also on the women's side, Lucy Lang '19 finished third in the 800-meter run (2:12.49) and Paige Fernandez '17 finished third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:05.38. In the javelin Carly Anderson '16 finished

second with a throw of 136'1".

In men's action, Sebastian Matt '16 led the pack and won the 5,000-meter race with a time of 14:51.30 while teammate Sam Klockenkemper '17 was close behind him in second place at 14:55.38. Also in distance races, Jonathan Perlman '19 finished second in the 1,500-meter run with a time of 3:58.64 while Kevin Serrao '18 finished in fourth place in the 800 meter run (1:53.26). In sprints, top finishers were Jimmy Martinez '19 with a sixth place finish in the 200-meter dash (22.02 seconds), and Alex Nichols '17 with a seventh place finish in the 400-meter sprint (48.85). In the pole vault, John Natalone '19 finished in fourth place at a height of 14'9.5".

To cap off the week in San Diego, the team had another meet at UC San Diego in the California Collegiate Invitational on Saturday, April 2. In the second meet both teams ended up in the middle of the pack, with the men's team coming in 6th out of 11 teams and the women's team coming in 6th out of 12 teams.

"We worked them pretty hard during the

week," Head Coach Martin Beatty '84 said, "but some people still came back and had terrific performances at UCSD."

For the men, Serrao led the way by winning the 1,500-meter race in 3:54.20. Martinez finished fifth in the 200-meter race with a time of 22.20 seconds. Ascension Aispuro '18 was also fifth in the 3,000-meter distance race (9:57.18). In the field, Tyler Chaisson '17 threw the shot put 45'10.5" for an impressive fourth-place finish.

For the women, Abigail Nadler '19 got second place in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:24.63. Lang finished third in the 800-meter run at 2:09.93 with Morris behind her in seventh with 2:14.64. The 4x100-meter relay also had the fourth-fastest time in the event with 52.40. Andersen finished runner-up in the javelin throw for the second meet in a row with a distance of 133'11".

At the Springfield meet this past weekend, Middlebury left about half of their top runners home. The indoor NCAA qualifiers and injured runners needed to rest leading up to the more important races and the

upcoming NESCAC Championships in two weeks. The men's team competed well, finishing 3rd/4 teams and the women won the event out of the four teams.

On the women's side, the Panthers won nine total events. Some of the winners were Robin Vincent '18 who won the 800-meter dash (2:17.10) and Katherine MacCary '19, winning the 1,500-meter run (4:58.71). Off the track, Kristin Kimble '19 finished first in the high jump (5'0.25") and Kreager Taber '19 won the pole vault competition (10'6").

In the men's competition, Middlebury won four events with Aispuro winning the 1,500-meter run at 4:05.51, Michael Pallozzi '18 claiming the title in the 110-meter hurdles at 15.76 and Natalone winning twice for the Panthers in the pole vault (13'11.25") and in the long jump (19'10.25").

Middlebury will build on their strong early season momentum, — including finishes above other NESCAC schools — on their way to the upcoming NESCAC championships on April 30. This week, the Panthers are all set to host the Panther Spring Invitational on Saturday, April 16.

Women's Lacrosse Remains Undefeated at 10-0

By Christine Urquhart
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team remains undefeated after adding five more victories over the course of the past two weeks.

"The past couple of weeks we have really worked on refining many of our offensive plays as well as making sure we have a balanced attack in terms of having both assisted goals and goals generated from drives," Alli Sciarretta '16 said.

In addition to their aggressive approach to offense, the team's dominating defensive presence has also contributed to some decisive wins for the nationally second-ranked Panthers.

While most of the student body was enjoying spring break, the lacrosse team cruised to a 20-9 victory over NESCAC rival Bowdoin College. It was a remarkable game for Mary O'Connell '17, who registered nine goals and four assists to set the new school record of 13 points in a single game. Her nine goals were the second best in Middlebury history.

The Panthers got off to a strong start as O'Connell keyed the early run with two goals and three assists en route to her record performance. Bowdoin finally got on the board with a pair of goals, and the Panthers responded with a four-goal run over the next eight minutes. By the end of the first half, Middlebury had secured a commanding 15-6 lead.

Bowdoin opened the second half with a quick goal, bringing the visitors to within eight. However, the Panthers responded with a five-goal surge in the half to seal the victory. The team next made the road trip to Pennsylvania to play Dickinson College. The long drive did not faze the Panthers as they came out firing with Megan Griffin '16 scoring just 38 seconds into the game. Griffin's tally was followed by a goal from Bridget Instrum '16 minutes later. Instrum would go on to tally back-to-back goals in a 3-0 run for Middlebury. However, Dickinson was able to cut the deficit to 5-3 at the half.

The Panthers opened the second half with a 4-0 run as they looked to pull away, leading 9-3 with 20:17 left to play. Dickinson refused to surrender and responded with the next three goals to bring the score to 9-6 with 10 minutes left.

Laurel Pascal '16 broke the Dickinson run with a goal assisted by O'Connell with 7:54 remaining. Dickinson moved to within striking distance with a goal with 6:58 left to play. Pascal converted a free position and O'Connell found Sciarretta for the last two goals, bringing the final score to 12-7. Goaltenders Kate Furber '19 and Maddie Kinker '16 were brilliant in the net for the Panthers, each recording thirty minutes in the win. The Panthers held a significant 39-12 margin in shots and a 25-15 advantage in ground balls.

The Panthers entered their next game against Stevenson University undefeated with the nation's fifth most prolific offense. Middlebury dominated the game from the start scoring the first six goals in route to an 18-6 victory.

O'Connell had another stellar game netting four goals and an assist. Griffin added three goals and two assists of her own for the Panthers, while Instrum notched three goals and an assist. Pascal also added two goals, moving her into 10th place in Middlebury's career goals list with 149.

The Panthers dominated Stevenson throughout the contest, with the first three goals coming within 3:24 of play. The goals kept coming for Middlebury as they led 6-0 after only 7:03 of action. Stevenson did not accept defeat though, and scored the next three goals bringing the score to a 7-3. The Panthers responded with seven of the final eight goals of the half and took a 14-4 lead into intermission.

In the second half, Middlebury controlled play and held a 4-2 scoring advantage. Furber and Katie Mandigo '16 played a half in goal for Middlebury and combined to make five saves. Middlebury outshot Stevenson 29-17 and won 14 of 25 draw controls on the afternoon.

The final game of the three-game road trip was a thriller against eighth-ranked Amherst. The Panthers won in overtime when Instrum scored 1:48 into extra time.

It was an evenly contested game throughout. Instrum got the scoring started for Middlebury at the 24:48 mark

of the first half. Amherst answered by netting back-to-back goals at the 23:15 to give the Lord Jeffs a 2-1 lead. The Panthers responded less than a minute later when Instrum netted a free position shot to bring the score to 2-2 with 15:40 to play in the opening period. Amherst added a tally before Pascal answered 37 seconds later to make it 3-3 with 6:51 on the clock. With time running down in the half, Amherst scored with just 0:57 remaining to gain a 4-3 edge at intermission notwithstanding the fact that the Panthers held a 12-7 advantage in shots in the first 30 minutes.

A quick start gave the home team a 5-3 lead when Amherst capitalized on a free position attempt at the 27:39 mark. However, Middlebury responded when Pascal netted a free position try of her own to make it 5-4 with 25:33 remaining in regulation. Amherst scored again in the 22nd minute to extend the lead back to two at 6-4. Middlebury delivered a pair of unassisted scores in a span of less than five minutes as Emma McDonagh '19 and Hollis Perticone '18 each found the back of the net making the score 6-6 with 14:25 to play in the contest. Amherst responded to give them a slim, 7-6 lead. Sara DiCenso '19 found Griffin, who scored with 10:34 remaining to make it 7-7. With less than five minutes in regulation, Amherst attempted a free position shot, but Mandigo made a critical stop to keep the Panthers in the game. Unfortunately, Instrum was not able to convert on either shot attempt in the last nine seconds and kept the game locked at 7-7 forcing overtime.

Middlebury won the opening draw of the extra session, granting the Panthers an important possession to start overtime. Shortly after, Instrum struck for the game-winner with 4:12 remaining to lift the Panthers above Amherst in a thrilling victory.

Mandigo made six saves and added five ground balls in the winning effort, while Pascal, Ritter and Sciarretta recorded

three ground balls apiece. Ritter also forced three turnovers in the win. Pascal won five draw controls as the Panthers held a 12-5 edge.

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team dominated the start of the game scoring the first five goals, and turned in a solid defensive performance in their 12-5 win at Bates this past Saturday. Middlebury entered the game as the leading offense in the NESCAC and Bates had the conference's leading defense. The Panthers' 12 goals on the day were three more than Bates had given up in a game all season.

Middlebury started out the contest with an early lead as Pascal scored 1:57 into the contest. The Panthers followed this with another four goals bringing the score to 5-0 with 14:54 left. Bates finally was able to get on the boards with 14:04 left. They responded again five minutes later making it 5-2. The Panthers netted one more goal from Sciarretta before the conclusion of the first half, leading Bates 6-2.

In the second half, the Panthers came out of the gates firing, scoring two goals in the span of 39 seconds by Ritter and Instrum. Sciarretta followed with back-to-back goals in a span of 12 seconds to extend the Panthers lead to eight. Despite three goals by Bates late in the second half, the Panthers were able to earn the decision by a final score of 12-5. Middlebury held an advantage in both shots and ground balls. Defensively, the Panthers were exceptional, holding Bates scoreless for 31:30 of game action.

"[The] team has so much depth that we have had a variety of players contributing to the scoring on the field ... [which] makes it difficult for teams to scout us — everyone really poses a threat," Sciarretta, reflecting on the team's success so far this season, said.

Middlebury (10-0, 6-0) will compete in a doubleheader this weekend, hosting NESCAC rival Trinity on Saturday, April 16 at 2:00 p.m. before playing Hamilton on Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m. on Kohn Field.

"This will arguably be the most important weekend of our season thus far ... taking care of the ball and playing smart...under pressure will prove crucial when we have to play to strong teams back to back," Hailey Cosseboom '17 said.

"[The] team has so much depth that we have had a variety of players contributing [...] everyone really poses a threat."

ALLI SCIARRETTA '16
WOMEN'S LACROSSE

MEN'S LACROSSE EDGES SIXTH-SEEDED BATES

By Trevor Schmitt
Senior Writer

While Middlebury students left campus for spring break, likely in search of the sun which has seemingly forgotten about northern Vermont, the Middlebury men's lacrosse team left in search of victories. The squad started the break with a trip to Maine to face NESCAC rival Bowdoin before traveling to upstate N.Y. to take on the nationally second-ranked Rochester Institute of Technology at the historic Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York. Unfortunately for the Panthers, both trips resulted in defeats. The first, at the hands of the Bowdoin Polar Bears, came in the form of a 9-8 loss which marks yet another game decided by two goals or less for Middlebury. The 13th-ranked Panthers followed up the valiant effort with another gut-wrenching one goal loss, this time to the same squad Middlebury took on last year at Johns Hopkins' storied Homewood Field in Baltimore, Md.

To date, the four Panther losses on the season have been by a combined five goals including defeats at the hand of top-seeded Tufts and also RIT, who is now unbeaten in their last 49 regular season contests.

The team refused to continue spiraling, however, and turned things around when Amherst came to Youngman Field on Saturday, April 2. Just as they did last year, the Panthers used the opportunity against a strong Lord Jeffs team, currently ranked sixth, to embark on a new winning streak. Middlebury came out firing on all cylinders, going up 4-1 in the fourth quarter, and refused to al-

low Amherst back into the game. Led by a hat trick from Jack Rautiola '16 and another four strike from Henry Riehl '18, the Panthers downed Amherst 17-14 on the day handing the Lord Jeffs their first NESCAC loss of the year.

Hitting the road yet again to take on Hamilton on Wednesday, April 6, the Panthers continued to come out of the gates flying while locking down the opponent. After taking another three goal first quarter lead, this time ending the quarter up 3-0, the Continentals struck back with four goals in the second quarter to go into halftime notched at 4-4 with the visiting Panthers. As has been the case so often during the season, Middlebury turned to their senior leaders to take over the game. Jack Cleary '16 dishd two assists to Sean Carroll '16, at the 11:19 and 8:39 marks, respectively, while Tim Giarrusso '16 added two of his own to give the Panthers the 9-5 lead heading into the final quarter. After the two sides traded goals throughout the fourth, Middlebury came away the victors by a score of 12-8 to record their second straight win in NESCAC competition.

As alumni and parents alike flocked to the stands of Alumni Stadium on Saturday, April 9, to watch Middlebury take on the Bates Bobcats, the Panthers looked to defend their home turf and earn their third consecutive NESCAC victory. Though not a traditional power, Bates came into the game tied with Middlebury in the league as they both sat at 4-2, making an always difficult NESCAC bout that much more important for the streaking Panthers. Unfortunately for the Bobcats, Middlebury continued to combine blistering offensive

force with the unbreakable defensive wall that has defined their current winning streak. After yet another fast-paced and Panther-dominated first quarter, marked by another two goal stanza from Giarrusso, Middlebury again ended the opening quarter with a three goal lead, a lead which they would never relinquish. Not to be outdone by his fellow senior, Sean Carroll '16 put together a two goal quarter of his own in the second, while the Middlebury defense continued to lock down Bates by allowing only two goals, one apiece from juniors Andrew Melvin and Charlie Fay. As a result, the Panthers carried a 9-3 lead into halftime. Demonstrating the kind of resiliency which has defined NESCAC lacrosse teams, however, Bates refused to go down without a fight and came out firing in the third quarter. Again led by Fay and Melvin, the Bobcats scored four goals in the quarter to the Panthers' two, coming from Cedric Rhodes '17 and Henry Riehl '16. Though Middlebury carried an 11-7 advantage into the final quarter, the squad knew complacency could mean defeat. As such, they raised the offensive level without missing a step and poured in four goals in the final quarter. Yet again, the Panther seniors led the charge as Kyle Soroka '16, Jon Broome '16, Carroll and Giarrusso each found the back of the net in the quarter to lead their squad to a massive 15-12 victory.

Middlebury, who following the game improved to 7-4 on the year and 5-2 in the NESCAC, returns to action away at Springfield Wednesday, April 13 when they look to win their fourth straight against the 4-6 Springfield College Pride.

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM	Plunkett's Predictions
1	MEN'S LACROSSE	The squad pulled off a close victory over sixth-seeded Bates in front of alumni from the program.
2	WOMEN'S LACROSSE	Still undefeated, the team has great momentum.
3	WOMEN'S GOLF	A third place finish marks a strong result in the first tournament of the spring.
4	MEN'S TENNIS	The team notched a pair of conference wins over the weekend.
5	TRACK & FIELD	Both teams had good results at their quad meet.
6	SOFTBALL	The team has some positive momentum after their spring break trip.
7	BASEBALL	They managed to pick up one out of three against Wesleyan.
8	SNOW	Do you even go here?

Men's Tennis Team Drops First Games; Rebounds in NESCAC Play

By Andrew Rigas
Sports Editor

The men's tennis team suffered its first two losses of the season on its spring break to California, where the Panthers won their first four matches before falling in their final two against DI competition UC Riverside and defending Division III national champion Claremont-Mudd-Scripps. However, in their return to the east coast, the Panthers overwhelmed Williams on Saturday, April 9, 8-1 and Tufts on Sunday, April 10, 7-2 to remain undefeated in the NESCAC (5-0) and move to 9-2 on the season.

Middlebury entered break with a 3-0 record and ranked third nationally after defeating ninth-ranked Wesleyan 5-4 and shutting out Bates and Hamilton.

The Panthers began their trip at Concordia University against the Division II Eagles, whom they defeated 8-1 on Saturday, March 26. Noah Farrell '18 and Ari Smolyar '16 dominated 8-1 in first doubles, and the Panthers swept doubles play as the pairs of Palmer Campbell '16 and Hamid Derbani '17 and Timo van der Geest '18 and William de Quant '18 also triumphed. Farrell, Campbell, Derbani, van der Geest and de Quant all won their singles matches, while Smolyar suffered a tough loss after taking the first set 3-6, 6-4, 14-12.

The Panthers did not lose a match in their next two matchups, defeating both Lewis & Clark and Biola 9-0 on Sunday and Monday, March 27 and 28, respectively. Kyle Schlanger '18, Peter Martin '19 and Cole Sutton '19 all notched their first victories of the trip against Biola in singles play.

After a day off, Middlebury paid a visit to eighth-ranked Pomona-Pitzer on Wednesday, March 30, hoping to revenge a 5-4 loss on its spring break trip last year. Farrell and Smolyar crushed their opponent 8-1 in first doubles, and van der Geest and de Quant edged theirs 8-6. Campbell and Derbani fell in a tiebreaker 9-8 (7-5), so the Panthers took a 2-1 lead into singles play. Der-

bani rebounded emphatically by smacking Spencer Simonides in the fifth slot, and de Quant won 6-1, 3-6, 6-0 in the fourth slot to put Middlebury ahead 4-1. Smolyar beat Jake Yasgoor, ranked 23rd nationally, in straight sets 6-3, 6-4 to seal the Panthers' revenge. Farrell won 7-6, 6-1 and the Panthers earned a 6-3 victory.

The next day, Middlebury lost for the first time this spring against Division I opponent UC Riverside. Playing by Division I rules, the Panthers needed to win two of the three doubles to earn the doubles point. Farrell and Smolyar lost 6-3, but Campbell and Derbani knotted play at one with a 7-5 victory. In the decisive third match, van der Geest and de Quant fell 7-6 and Middlebury fell behind 1-0. UC Riverside took command of the match in singles play, winning the first four matches to secure the team victory. Smolyar and van der Geest both battled back after losing their first sets to win their matches, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 and 2-6, 7-6, 6-3, respectively, but Middlebury lost the match 5-2.

After one more day off, the Panthers ventured to fourth-ranked Claremont-Mudd-Scripps for their much anticipated matchup with the Stags on Saturday, April 2. The Stags took first doubles as Skylar Butts and Daniel Morkovine defeated Smolyar and Farrell 8-2. Derbani and Campbell beat Lester Yeh and Glenn Hull 8-3 in the second slot to tie the match at one, and van der Geest and Schlanger put Middlebury ahead with an 8-6 victory over Max Macey and Bryan Mehall in the third slot.

Morkovine quickly tied the match by defeating Campbell 6-1, 6-1 in third singles, but Patrick Wildman dispatched

van der Geest 6-3, 6-3 and regained the lead for CMS in the second slot. Farrell, the national champion, won in straight sets against Butts, ranked third nationally, 6-1, 7-5 in the first slot to bounce back from his loss against UC Riverside and knot the match at three.

After losing the first sets in two of the final three matches, the Stags came back to win the final three matches of the day and secure a 6-3 victory. In fourth singles, Derbani won the first set of his match with Yeh 6-1, but Yeh won the second set in a tiebreaker and the third 6-2 to win the match. Smolyar lost to the Glenn Hull 7-6, 2-6, 6-2 in the second slot, and de Quant fell to Macey in a third set tiebreaker after taking the first set (4-6, 6-3, 7-6) in the third slot.

BRYCE PARMELLY
ASSISTANT MEN'S TENNIS COACH

"It was disappointing, and the guys were really bummed," Assistant Coach Bryce Parmelly said. "The lesson was we had the match on our racket and didn't close it out when we had our opportunity but are well within our range to beat a team like that."

The Panthers returned to Middlebury for a week of practice and focused on closing matches a little bit better and embracing the pressure more through mental work, visualizing every day and having affirmation meetings.

"Our whole thing is we want to run towards winning, not run away from losing," Parmelly said. "We don't want to hope they give it to us but actually go take it."

Middlebury traveled to Williams on Saturday, April 9, and swamped the ninth-ranked Ephs 8-1. All three doubles pairs of Farrell and Smolyar, Campbell and Derbani and de Quant and Schlanger won. Smolyar, Farrell and

Campbell all won in straight sets in singles and de Quant came from behind to earn a 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 victory. Derbani lost 6-4, 2-6, 10-5, and van der Geest earned Middlebury's final point when his opponent retired.

"It [the mental preparation] totally paid off this weekend, which was very cool," Parmelly said. "We won all three decently close doubles matches."

The next day, Middlebury swept singles play at Tufts and triumphed over the Jumbos 7-2. In doubles, Campbell and Derbani lost 9-7, de Quant and Schlanger answered with an 8-5 victory, and Tufts won the last doubles match over Farrell and Smolyar 9-8. Campbell did not lose a game in his singles match (6-0, 5-0) before his opponent retired. Derbani and Farrell both won in straight sets, and Smolyar bounced back after losing a first set tiebreaker (14-16) to win the final two sets and his match. De Quant and van der Geest also came back from one set deficits to win their matches and secure a 7-2 Middlebury victory.

"Our guys just worked and worked," Parmelly said. "We only won three of the first six sets. We ended up coming back, and, as the match went further and further and further, every guy was fighting at his spot and eventually wore them down. They started to get tired and mentally weaker, and we just got stronger and stronger."

The Panthers will have one week to prepare for their biggest match of the NESCAC season thus far against Bowdoin, whom they will host on Sunday, April 17. The Polar Bears are the only other undefeated team remaining in the NESCAC, have not lost out-of-conference and beat Claremont-Mudd-Scripps. "Bowdoin coming up is huge," Parmelly said.

He acknowledges the Polar Bears' success thus far, but points out the Panthers defeated them three times last year.

"Our guys are in a really good place, where it is going to be a huge test but one that everyone is really excited for to see where we are."

EDITORS' PICKS



ANDREW RIGAS (44-31, .587)



WILL CASE (18-13, .580)



REMO PLUNKETT (58-50, .537)



ALEX MORRIS (99-91, .521)



EMILY BUSTARD (68-73, .482)

Men's golf: Which Panther has the lowest score this weekend at the Johnson & Wales Wildcat Spring Opener?

REID BUZBY '19
I'll put my trust in Buzby.

PHIL MORIN '19
He's one of their top first-years and will be a key contributor for the team's attempt to three-peat at NESCACs.

FITZ BOWEN '17

BENNETT DOHERTY '18
The former NESCAC champ will come in clutch.

JOE KO '18
Basing this on his fifth place finish (and lowest score on the team) in last weekend's tournament.

Women's Lacrosse: Can the Panthers stay undefeated this Saturday at home against Trinity?

YES
That's easy.

YA.
Home field and we look unbeatable.

YES
I see this team staying perfect in the NESCAC as they wrap up the season.

YES
They score A LOT of goals. Like a lot.

YES
I'm pretty confident that this team will do well in both games this weekend.

Men's Lacrosse: Closest to: Number of goals scored by midfielder Sean Carroll '16 this Saturday at Trinity?

TWO
That's what he's averaging.

THREE
Seems like three against Trinity's defense.

THREE
Go off Sheen.

TWO
Seems very doable.

FOUR
Hopefully he'll have a good game.

Premier League: Does Leicester City keep its roll going this Sunday against West Ham?

YES
Oh yeah, they're hot and the future Premier League champion.

TIE
We will go with a draw in this one, as West Ham stays in shouting distance of the top four.

YES

YES
"They're hot." -Arigas.

YES
Yes.



CURVEBALL

After making huge strides in the opening of their season, the baseball team narrowly lost its double-header to NESCAC competition Wesleyan. Read more on Page 21.

JEFF PATTERSON

Women's Tennis Team Splits Conference Play

By Andrew Rigas
Sports Editor

The women's tennis team won and lost over spring break, winning its first two matches and falling in its last two before returning home to split a pair of NESCAC matches this past weekend, losing at Williams on Saturday, April 9, and winning at Tufts on Sunday, April 10. With a 3-3 record over this stretch, the Panthers moved to 6-3 overall and 4-1 in the NESCAC this season.

Before embarking on their spring break trip to California, the then seventh-ranked Panthers traveled to Boston to take on Babson on Friday, March 25. They swept the Beavers 9-0, winning all three doubles matches by at least three games and only conceding one set in singles play. Alexandra Fields '17 and Sadie Shackelford '16 shut their opponent out, both winning 6-0, 6-0, and the Panthers stayed undefeated, winning fourth match in as many tries this spring.

In its first match in California, the Panthers visited Point Loma Nazarene on Tuesday, March 29, to play the Division II Sea Lions. Middlebury dominated once more, taking all nine matches for its fifth straight win. The doubles pair of Fields and Lauren Amos '16 won its match 8-0, while Ria Gerger '16 defeated the No. 23 ranked singles player in Division II Nikki Newell 6-0, 6-2 and Amos beat her opponent 6-0, 6-1.

Next, after one day off, Middlebury visited fifth-ranked Pomona-Pitzer, whom they beat 6-3 last year on its spring break trip. Middlebury won the first doubles match of the day when Fields and Amos won 8-4 in the third slot, but Pomona-Pitzer took the final

two doubles matches. Christina Puccinelli '19 won her match in fourth singles 6-0, 6-1 for her sixth straight victory, but the Sagehens took the next three matches to seal the victory. Gerger and Lily Bondy '17 both won their matches in three sets, bringing the match to 5-4 in favor of Pomona-Pitzer.

In their final match of their spring break trip on Saturday, April 2, the Panthers matched up with then fifth-ranked Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, whom they had lost to the last three years. The Stags made it four straight, winning 6-3, two of the three doubles matches and four of the six singles matches. Bondy and Shackelford won 8-3 in second doubles for the Panthers, while Gerger won 6-4, 7-6 in first singles and Kaysee Orozco '17 came from behind to win 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in sixth singles.

After one week off, Middlebury played at No. 2 Williams and fell 7-2. Fields and Puccinelli were the only Panthers to win, as Fields won in straight sets 7-6, 6-1 in the fourth slot and Puccinelli outlasted her opponent 6-1, 6-7, 10-8 in the fourth slot.

The next day, Middlebury snapped its three game losing streak by squeaking one out at 14th-ranked Tufts. The doubles pair of Fields and Puccinelli won 8-2 in the third slot, but the other two Middlebury pairs lost. Down 2-1 entering singles, Molly Paradies (6-4, 6-1), Bondy (6-3, 6-3), Gerger (6-3, 6-4) and Puccinelli (6-3, 7-6) won the first four singles matches to secure the win for the Panthers.

The Panthers host No. 1 and 2015 NCAA Division III runner-up Emory on Friday, April 15, No. 4 Bowdoin on Saturday and No. 19 Skidmore on Sunday.

GOLF TEAMS TEE UP FOR SPRING SEASON

By Will Case
Sports Editor

Men's and women's golf were back in action last weekend, April 9-10, as both teams partook in competitive tournaments for the first time this spring. The women's team played in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. at the Vassar College Invitational held at the Casperkill Golf Course, while the men's team played at the NYU Spring Invitational at the Forest Hill Field Club in Bloomington, N.J.

The women's squad placed third out of the nine teams that competed in Poughkeepsie as they continued to build on their strong fall season. For the weekend, the Panthers shot 678, 335 on Saturday and 343 on Sunday. Williams followed its dominant fall season with a win in Poughkeepsie. They shot 627 for the weekend, 22 strokes better than runner-up Amherst.

"We have only played once outside at Middlebury," said Katharine Fortin '18, who looks to carry the momentum of her successful fall into the spring season. "We [played] four rounds over spring break in South Carolina, which is a different look than cold, Northeast golf. The cold weather definitely didn't help this weekend, but we were mostly underprepared physically and mentally. Spring season is short and comes up fast and it's always the hardest to get going in the transition from inside to outside."

Despite the cold, Monica Chow '16 had a couple of her best rounds of the year at the Vassar tournament. Chow shot a 79 on Saturday and an 81 on Sunday. Her weekend total of 160 was good for an individual finish of sixth-place.

"I felt that the strongest part of my game this weekend was my mental game," Chow said. "Instead of getting caught up in the results,

I was relaxed and enjoyed the process of being outside with my competitors, which allowed me to score well while remaining calm. I play best when I'm having fun and enjoying the process rather than outcomes."

Specifically, Chow was strong off the tee, which she credits to having played the Casperkill course in the past.

"The course was in great condition," she said. "I was particularly impressed by the quality of the greens, as they rolled pretty true despite having just come out of winter. Having played the course several times before definitely helped me make better decisions off the tee. For example, many tee shots required a placement on the right side of the fairway to avoid some overgrown trees on the left, a fact that someone playing the course for the first time would not be aware of."

Fortin was one of the team's top players throughout the fall and shot back-to-back 85s, tying for 14th on the individual leaderboard.

"I was not even close to playing at the top of my game," Fortin said. "But this weekend is gone and we have a week to practice and fix our mistakes. Chow, our senior captain, led our team and stayed steady throughout the weekend with good scores and Breckinridge, our individual, shot an 87 on Sunday, which was a personal tournament best for her. That was great."

Chow also remained upbeat about the team's prospects of eclipsing Amherst on tournament leader boards before the spring season ends.

"We are just as strong as the Amherst team," Chow said. "One of their strongest players returned from abroad for this spring, but that does not mean we don't have the capabilities to beat them as

a team. What it's going to come down to is mental toughness and having a winning attitude."

In New Jersey, the men's team also tried to shake the cobwebs off their clubs and started to prepare for the NESCAC Championship at the end of the month, April 30 and May 1. They finished their first tournament in ninth place with a team score of 639, 319 on Saturday and 320 on Sunday. Skidmore walked away the winner of the 11-team tournament, while NESCAC rivals Williams shot 618, good for runner-up and Trinity shot 624, good for fourth place. However, Williams' tough fall means that it will not be making the trip to the Ralph Myhre Golf Course for the NESCAC Championship.

Phil Morin '19 led the five players who represented Middlebury with a 153 for the weekend and shaved three strokes off of his Saturday score by shooting a 75 on the second day.

"My ball-striking was the best part of my game," Morin said. "We got to New Jersey late Friday so I was unable to play a practice round at Forest Hills. Saturday was a pretty brutal day in terms of weather. It was raining for the first half of the round and temperatures felt to be in the high 30s. The main issue I faced was keeping my hands warm for putting and chipping."

The first-year said that he felt he played the greens well on the second day.

"I managed to save par on numerous occasions that definitely saved my round," Morin reflected. "The putter was pretty solid throughout the weekend, especially on day two where I don't think I missed a putt inside five feet."

Joe Ko '18 entered the tournament as an individual but ended up registering the lowest round by a

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